

# THE UFO WORLD '89



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on behalf of the British UFO Research Association

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INTRODUCTION:

It has been more than two years since the last edition of this little publication. An enormous amount has taken place during those two key years (1987 and 1988). Indeed, I have heard many statements (especially from the USA) that these modern times are more exciting than at any other point in UFO history. You will shortly see the basis for such a well-founded belief.

In the summer of 1987 I visited America to take part in the annual MUFON jamboree, held that year in Washington DC. This was just at the point when many of these amazing revelations were coming to the fore. I am thus able to afford a 'European' perspective on these earth-shattering (or should we call them universe-shattering?) events.

It is the task of this booklet to try and place the many incidents unfolding before often disbelieving eyes into some sort of context. That will not be an easy task, as you will soon come to realise. But we will try our best.

Of course, as I have said in the past and will doubtless say again, I am not alone in putting together this venture. Whilst it is written by myself (unless otherwise attributed) and appears under the auspices of BUFORA and its National Investigation Committee, it simply would not exist without the legions of hardworking UFOlogists all over the world who have struggled tirelessly and at great personal expense to contribute the data upon which 'UFO WORLD' is based.

Inevitably, this is not a comprehensive treatment. It could never hope to be. But it will give you the flavour of the world of UFOlogy during these seminal years. If you feel that your nation has been unfairly slighted then there is a simple way to overcome that unintended omission. I am already collating material for UFO World '90 - which will hopefully see the light of day sometime next summer. Now is not too soon to start sending me your news and reviews of things that have happened in your own particular neck of the woods during the already fascinating calendar year of 1989.

But for now let's turn attention back toward a review of those most dramatic happenings in 24 months that changed UFO history.

*Jerry Randes*

Cheshire, October 1989

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## INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

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### AFRICA:

Africa is a motley collection of countries with many different backgrounds, cultures and politics. Putting them all together in this review may seem an odd thing to do, but it is justified because we know so very little about events on the 'dark continent'.

What we do know is to a very large extent thanks to the efforts of Cynthia Hind, who fortunately has the personal resources and the time to travel the vast lands pursuing cases and then bring this information to the UFO community at large through her parent group, MUFON, in the USA.

One important point concerning this material is that it offers clues about the UFO phenomenon which do not emerge from more modernised civilisation. For example, Cynthia investigated one impressive case of a light that appeared at a La Rochelle (Zimbabwe) plantation. Strange figures were also seen and apparently rendered one of the Mashona tribe natives unconscious. Later this witness had great difficulty describing the colour of what he had seen because he lacked a word that described the intense silvery glow. Furthermore, the event was interpreted as a visit by 'ancestors' or 'spirits' rather than aliens, since the natives had no awareness of UFOlogy such as we read in newspapers almost every day. Indeed he could not even accept that anybody (Americans not excluded) had been to the moon!

During 1987 Cynthia offered some important data on her investigations into a very significant landing with physical traces at Rosmead, South Africa on 12 November 1972.

The headmaster of a primary school in the Karoo returned from a weekend trip at 20.25 hrs to discover a light projecting a beam towards the ground. Moments later he found the school's tennis court decimated by a force that had ripped up the tarmac. The police were called and vandals were suspected. However, other witnesses had seen strange things a few minutes earlier. Some soldiers at the nearby army camp had spotted red lights rotating in a circle directly above the tennis court. The lights disappeared suddenly and it was some time before they made up their mind about reporting the matter. They were inevitably fearful of ridicule.

Sergeant Goosen, investigating the 'scene of the crime' found the area securely locked and no sign of an intruder. However, there were five holes approximately one metre in diameter and other smaller holes where the surface of the court had been torn up. Pieces of tarmac were found imbedded in a copse of trees over 200 metres away and a garage wall adjacent to the court had tarmac deeply inset as if this had been flung at it with considerable force. Bluegum trees at the edge of the area of destruction also showed some evidence of burning and the surface of the tarmac had indications of a severe downward pressure. Police enquiries revealed no residual radiation and no evidence of vandalism was ever uncovered. Retired police chief Col B J van Heerden told the investigator it was the most puzzling case in his entire career.

Cynthia Hind favours the hypothesis that a physical UFO landed on the court, softened the tarmac through heat, became stuck and created the havoc as it rose to free itself. However, a scientist at the university in Witwatersrand proposed a whirlwind as the cause. Weather conditions were mild and calm and he was eventually unable to account for the heat damage. There do seem remarkable similarities with the 'crop circles' now being discovered in British cereal fields for which physicist, Dr Terence Meaden has proposed a new phenomenon - a rotating ionized vortex - as the likely cause. Perhaps this South African case is a vital clue in that ongoing scientific enquiry (see BUFORAs "Controversy of the Circles").

Cynthia Hind has also done sterling work investigating the question of 'abduction' cases - where people claim to have been taken *inside* UFOs by alien beings. These baffling claims are at the forefront of current research, but investigated reports from outside the major nations are few and far between. Would African data show major cultural differences that suggest a psychological solution, or would they so mirror western data that a genuine alien intelligence simply must be involved?

To help answer that question consider the story of one young woman from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. She likens her experiences to a recurrent 'travelling' (or flying) dream with heavy psychic overtones (ie these 'dreams' showed her things that would later actually occur in her life). The voyage always begins when a 'man in white' appears, takes hold of her hand and they 'float' through the air in an 'out of body' state.

After several of these the man (who never speaks) took her into a strange room where people in blue ski-suits were sat before masses of equipment including TV monitors. A female in the same blue uniform but with wonderful complexion and long, blonde hair explained that they were from another dimension and were monitoring earth and sometimes manipulating events 'in our own interests'. They treated the reluctant abductee kindly and when she 'woke up' she could not decide if this very vivid experience was real. But when she tried to tell her husband (an army officer) she had a terrible stabbing pain in her head and could not do so.

She made later 'dream' visits to this room with the man in white and received further information from the blonde woman. She was told how they abducted humans and usually sent them back, but some chose to stay in the 'other dimension'. However, to do this required a 'cell change' that altered the human genetic structure in such a way that return to earth was then permanently impossible.

The abductee has since seen a TV programme about UFOs in which the case of the Roestenberg family from October 1954 in Staffordshire was mentioned. They saw blonde haired entities in blue ski suits and the Zimbabwe abductee is convinced that these were the same people as she met. Certainly it is remarkable how many cases of abductions with 'psychic' overtones (especially from Britain) involve identical details such as the prophecy, return visits, flying, white robe and the blonde haired entities. (See several cases in "Abduction" by Jenny Randles)

Data for this section: Cynthia Hind, editor of UFO AFRINEWS



AUSTRALIA:

There was but one case on everybody's lips throughout Australia in this period - the incredible affair of Mundrabilla, which made newspaper headlines all over the world. In Britain, for example, it was the most reported UFO case in history! Was all that attention justified? See our 'Case histories' section later in this publication for the answer.

Other than that, abductions were a focus of attention here as well. But they are of such fascination on the southern continent, largely because virtually none exist. Despite its close ties with both Britain and the USA and its plethora of 'ordinary' UFO reports there is no track record of people being whizzed off into 'spaceships' by 'little men' and UFOlogists down under are keen to find out why.

A major study has been under way involving UFO Research Australia. It has scoured the records to find cases that might be potential CE 4s - close encounters of the fourth kind - as abductions are known in UFO speak. Some interesting candidates have turned up. For instance, the encounter of Joseph Chanas in Woomera, South Australia, sometime in 1966 or 1967. The witness felt the air go still, looked up and saw several UFOs flying above. He was then paralysed, began to feel 'floaty' and woke up hours later in shock, feeling totally disorientated and not knowing who he was for some minutes. He was taken to a local hospital but soon released. Unfortunately, UFORA have been unable to find this witness.

It is possible that had hypnosis been employed (as is the stock in trade, particularly in America, to 'relieve' missing periods of time or memories) an account of an on-board abduction might have emerged in this or other cases. But it is decidedly interesting that no 'spontaneous' recollections of abduction stories appear to exist, although the success in Australia of US horror fiction author and real life abductee Whitley Strieber (whose 1987 book "Communion" was a best-seller here as almost everywhere else) seems to have lead to one or two stories beginning to emerge.

This dearth of abduction material is either a product or a primary cause of the general trend in Australian UFOlogy, which regards these stories not as literal 'space kidnaps' (unlike many American researchers) but a consequence of an altered state of consciousness and a visionary episode. The famous 'Puddy' abduction from Victoria State is one good reason for this belief. Maureen Puddy sat in her car - going absolutely nowhere in any 'real' sense - and described to two astonished UFOlogists who were sat with her an abduction into a UFO. She evidently quite sincerely believed she was experiencing such a kidnap. At one point one investigator walked through the spot where Mrs Puddy says an alien was standing. He saw nothing, but the stationary abductee alleged that her captor HAD moved to one side to let the UFOlogist pass!

During 1987 and 1988 remarkable joint work by PhD sociologist Bob Bartholomew and UFORA UFOlogist Keith Basterfield has examined the latest psychological research into 'fantasy prone personalities' and the two men believe that the traits displayed by that small section of humanity match those of the typical abductee, perhaps resolving matters.

Leading Australian UFOlogist and industrial Chemist, Bill Chalker (the only man to have been given official and near *carte blanche* access to government UFO files and told to publish them) has examined this problem of missing abductions and come up with some interesting answers.

He notes that there are clear cases of 'missing time' that might be potential abductions. One he cites from Springwood, New South Wales involves two young men in a caravan and a blue light projected through the skylight by a disc-shaped UFO. One of the boys was later found wandering nearby in a daze and with some time unaccounted for and having vague memories of being in the company of strange, human-like beings. If hypnotic regression had been employed here, who knows what might have resulted? But such incidents fail to answer the question as to why no cases of consciously recalled and full-scale abductions apparently exist, as they do in abundance from elsewhere.

However, Bill Chalker is fascinated by the traditions of aboriginal medicine-men or shamans which for centuries have offered stories that parallel abductions. One tradition, for example, describes the shaman's ability to climb "at night by means of a rope invisible to ordinary mortals up to the sky, where he can hold converse with the star people."

In the few 'partial' or 'possible' abductions now available from Australian research one thing is clear. The typical 'American alien' - the small ugly creature with a large egg-shaped head - is totally absent. Instead there is a range of entities of differing types and sizes. This is another reason why Australian UFOlogists favour a psychological explanation, since such an alien menagerie is best accounted for by the fertility of human imagination than by planet earth being the most popular tourist spot in the inhabited universe.

Aside from UFORA, the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (an offshoot of the American group founded by the late Dr J Allen Hynek) also investigates cases with most of the same handful of active UFOlogists that populate the other group. There is no rivalry. Both exist in perfect harmony and complement one another.

Keith Basterfield published an interesting retrospective enquiry into Australia's most famous UFO photo taken on 21 July 1975 in the so-called 'window area' of Kempsey, New South Wales. It depicts a pulsating motionless glow by trees on the western horizon. An expert photographer filmed it but it vanished by descending below distant hills before a telephoto lens could be fitted. Using new computer techniques it has been possible to plot all star and planet positions and Keith is certain that the culprit has to be Venus, otherwise "there should have been two bright light sources in the picture, which there isn't." Original investigator, Bill Chalker, is not fully convinced and notes that the witnesses describe the light moving across a considerable arc of sky before hovering, which Venus certainly could not have done. Another example of how modern technology is coming to the aid of UFO investigation.

Data for this section: Keith Basterfield, Bill Chalker, Vlad & Pony Godic

BELGIUM:

A computer has been hard at work in this country also. Employed by Hans van Kampen it set about the most famous UFO case of all time - the sighting of pilot Kenneth Arnold on 24 June 1947.

Arnold was flying over the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, USA, when he saw a formation of objects that he described as moving 'like saucers skipping across water'. The press misappropriated the term, assumed he meant that they were 'saucer' shaped (which they were not) and invented the term 'flying saucer'. From then onwards people claim to have really seen saucer-shaped things in the skies, which is either evidence of the subjective nature of the phenomenon or proof that the aliens have an excellent sense of humour!

Van Kempen did his research for his book "40 Jaar UFO's" (40 years of UFOs) published by De Kern in Holland to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Arnold sighting in 1987. He criticised original researchers for not realising that this case was potentially explicable; although Dr Allen Hynek's long secret report as consultant to the US Air Force is now released and clearly shows that he very quickly recognised the problems. Arnold thought the UFOs were aircraft sized but many miles away, thus flying at supersonic speeds. Whilst he always believed he had seen a formation of secret military jets this speed seemed to make that impossible. Hynek, however, proved that the Arnold estimates of size and distance were totally incompatible and the objects must have been much nearer than he thought and so flying considerably more slowly at velocities quite consistent with 1947 aircraft.

Taking this as his premise van Kampen researched records of secret air projects in 1946 and 1947 and discovered an aircraft known as the Republic F-84 Thunderjet. He contends that a formation of these could have been on a secret test flight in the vicinity of Mount Rainier and this is what the civilian pilot saw. To prove his thesis he employed an Apple Macintosh computer with a '3 Dimensional' programme that takes data on objects and creates 3-D images which the computer can then rotate and allow you to view on screen from all angles. His comparison between Arnold's sketches and the computer graphic reconstruction of an F-84 at similar distance and orientation proved to be remarkable. He was satisfied, even though not all UFOlogists have been convinced.

The official US government file on the case terms it 'identified' as an optical mirage of mountain peaks. Yet Kenneth Arnold always stated that he wound down the plane's window and took off his sunglasses to prevent reflections, then twisted and turned the aircraft to view the objects from different perspectives. That act might have ruled out all practical possibility of a mirage effect.

The problem of UFO investigation in the Benelux nations is that there are few people sharing several languages (Flemish, French, German) and this fractionalises a subject that even in large countries relies upon limited numbers putting in hard effort in their own time.

Perhaps because of this some groups went to the wall in 1987 and 1988 feeling the 'recession'. UFO Belgium was one (which provided English summaries of its key data and so will be missed). But other small teams soldier on and there is optimistic talk about a 'Europeen' link for 1992 - the year when trade restrictions are removed in the new European Economic Community (the closest yet to a United States of Europe). As a start a conference was held in Brussels late in 1988 and brought leading researchers from all over the world to Belgium for the first time.

Data for this section: Pieter Hendrickx

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## BRAZIL:

An enormous heavily subsidised conference was held in Rio de Janeiro in September 1988. Its theme was very much the extra-terrestrial idea of UFO origin and guest speakers ranged from computer expert and originator of the UFO/folklore link, Professor Jacques Vallee, to the notorious herald of the 'ancient asytronauts' brigade, Eric von Daniken. It attracted a great deal of attention in this country where UFOs are a very emotive topic. But as a 'special deal' to attend cost £1200 I declined the delights of Copacabana beach and chose solvency instead.

The group GEPEX from Sao Paulo reports that the Culture Minister, Celso Furtado, and a senator, Fernando Cardoso, have reported a UFO above Fortaleza City. The UFO was shaped like a ball and "went down vertically, stopped and went north with a dreadful velocity." As Gilberto Dantas of the group points out; "This is an important declaration because the witnesses are fit and of good reputation. Now they work for the Brazilian government and do nothing for UFO study!" The rotters.

One of the most famous Brazilian cases is the series of photographs taken during the International Geophysical Year by the official cameraman aboard a converted Naval vessel, the Almirante Saldhana. This was on 16 January 1958 whilst the crew were engaged in setting up a meteorological monitor station on the otherwise uninhabited rocky outcrop of Trindade Island, out in the Atlantic.

The saturn shaped object depicted on these famous images are widely considered amongst the most impressive photographs in UFO history, because they show an object clearly in motion across a wide arc of sky with the island and sea in the same foreground. However, their status as prime evidence (which has passed an official enquiry by the Brazilian government, computer enhancement developed out of the NASA deep-space probes and several UFO group investigations) has now been challenged by Scottish sceptic, Stuart Campbell. He has developed a theory (given the blessing of the *British Journal of Photography*, no less) which attempts to prove the true origin of the pictures.

Campbell accepts that they are genuine, but believes they display a rare (if not unique) scientific phenomenon; a daylight atmospheric mirage of the planet Jupiter. Needless to say many UFO researchers are yet to be persuaded by this rather far-fetched hypothesis.

CANADA:

Canada is a vast country with a relatively small population and enormous climate differences from coast to coast. Its proximity to the United States inevitably colours its perception on the phenomenon and, indeed, regular communication and joint meetings occur. The Canadian UFO Research Network on the west coast has meetings every 3 months with their neighbours in Washington State, Oregon and Idaho and these may be the only regular multi-country UFO seminars. According to one who attends them they sometimes have as many as 100 people present and these events - where notes on cases are swapped - are termed "very beneficial".

Another facility the network has just set up is similar in concept to BUFORA's "UFO Call" operated throughout Britain. However, the Canadian version is less an educational news update (as BUFORA run with British Telecom) and more a private enterprise venture. The group run a 'hot-line' where exciting tales of UFOs are told to listeners who dial a special number. They go for items with a high drama content, including 'hot' audio tapes recording UFO cases or witnesses.

Whilst UFOs were few and far between (as they were in the mid to late eighties all over the world) many UFOlogists took to re-opening classic cases. In Canada this meant the Stephen Michalak affair. 125 pages of official documents on this close encounter were released by the Canadian government. Graham Conway, who accessed this, reported that it had "quite a bit of 'top level' stuff missing."

Michalak was an amateur prospector who went to Falcon Lake, Manitoba, on 19 May 1967 and near a quartz outcrop saw two glowing domes in the sky. One of them landed and 'cooled' to a steel-grey, but was still emitting a purplish light that hurt the eyes to gaze at. Heat and a sulphurous smell emerged as he sat watching (and sketching) the object for some time. Eventually a door opened and a 'computer' voice was heard. He tried addressing it in several languages but it stopped. Then he walked right up to the side, touched the metal of the craft with his gloved hand and pulled away in horror as the glove melted on contact!

The door now shut and hot 'exhaust' fumes emerged from a grill that appeared on the edge as it rotated. Michalak was knocked backwards, his clothes on fire and as he tore his ruined shirt off himself the craft rose skywards and vanished. The prospector was left weak, nauseous and vomiting but he managed to stagger into the nearest town. A passing Royal Canadian Policeman saw him, heard his tale but quickly left saying he had other things to do! It was only after returning home by bus later that day that his family took him to hospital in Winnipeg.

The physiological effects on Michalak are what make this case so important. He was left with serious burns to his chest and legs including a chequered pattern on his stomach that may have been caused by the grill just as he alleges. One investigating UFOlogist at the time was very worried about radiation, because soil samples from the site proved 'hot' at a level above safety margins. So he arranged for Michalak to be tested by a nuclear research unit.

These tests showed that his burns were not radiation induced but from heat and chemicals (as the witness had, of course, always stated). When doctors could not resolve Michalak's continuing medical problems (fainting and weight loss being most predominant) he paid for his own tests at a private clinic. Despite having proof of his attendance he was never given the results and the clinic later denied they knew of him. A number of stories about Michalak having altered blood cell counts which suggest radiation sickness began to circulate.

The affair was investigated by the US government scientific project headed by nuclear physicist Dr Edward Condon. This debunked UFOs termed the events at Falcon Lake "unknown" and said that "If (they) were physically real, it would show the existence of alien flying vehicles in our environment."

With this in mind, UFOlogist Chris Rutkowski, a curator at the University of Manitoba, re-investigated the case and decided it was 'botched' by the investigators at the time. He retested some samples and found only anticipated low level radiation caused by local uranium by-products. However, original government documents from 1976-68 show that several analyses of samples had found far more dangerous radium traces. They concluded that if the case was a hoax it was a big one.

Rutkowski also traced a police officer who had the belief that Michalak fell over a barbecue and invented the tale to cover his injuries; although the check pattern was not consistent with any known barbecue grill. He also tracked down the missing clinic results. Another UFO investigator, who had quit to go it alone, had arranged to obtain these and had seemingly not told anybody (including the witness). The tests had found no medical cause for Michalak's ailments (thankfully now gone; although he still has traces of the scars left by the burning).

One of the accused investigators, Edward Barker, who organises programmes at the Manitoba planetarium, reacted angrily to the attacks and has clarified most of the points Rutkowski rose. He has official documents showing that 0.3 microcurries from a radium source was involved and this was considered a health threat. Even Rutkowski says that after meeting Michalak and his family several times he is convinced there was no deliberate hoax and the unfortunate man did encounter *something* on that day 22 years ago.

The fact that Michalak was at a quartz bearing site would be of considerable interest to neurophysiologist Dr Michael Persinger of the Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. He has developed an exciting theory that UFOs are the product of brain distortions inducing hallucinations, with the trigger being an energetic transient phenomenon related to the rocks at a site. Quartz is well known for producing an electrical signal when put under strain (and this is the basis of many tiny battery power sources). By scaling this effect up to a landscape size he is convinced we can account for UFOs and he notes the impressive correlation that seems to occur between waves of UFO sightings and sudden earth tremors. Such tremors, of course, result from rocks being put under enormous strain that ultimately releases itself with violence.



Whilst not being a fan of this theory UFOlogist Graham Conway admits that it has dramatic support through events of 1987.

A wave of sightings struck the west coast in the autumn. A woman from Hatzic in British Columbia saw "flashing lights" coloured red, yellow and blue above the Dewdney Peak on 16 August. Despite attempting to get the police and air force interested neither were willing to pursue the matter and the lights continued to dog the mountain. A local astronomer said they were probably just the star capella. Then, on 6 September in daylight, police constable John Skorupa entered the frey. Near Matsqui he saw a "bright light hovering adjacent to a mountainside... It lasted two minutes then faded away suddenly." Rounding a corner he met another one. He wanted to support the growing number of local people convinced they were seeing these lights. A local extra-terrestrial natured UFOlogist spent several nights on the peak with a video camera convinced "we have been visited... and the government is covering it up". But he only saw "a planet, bright stars, airplanes and falling stars."

These brave skywatches occurred in late September and may well have been too late! According to Persinger's theory an earth tremor would release the strain and end the light show. On 16 September 1987 the same area around Vancouver was struck by a quake registering 3.6 on the Richter scale. Conway added; "Geographically speaking, it was centred within all the reports that I had been receiving for the preceeding weeks. In fact I was even told of a sighting of two daylight discs only three days before the earthquake took place."

Data for this section: Graham Conway and Chris Rutkowski

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#### DENMARK:

For many UFOlogists their contact with this country stems from regular clarion calls via H C Petersen and a Major von Kevichzky of the curious organisation IGAP (International Get Acquainted Programme). IGAP carry forth the message of a now rather derided 'contactee', George Adamski (who said he flew to the planets with spacemen and viewed trees and rivers on the moon!). They have bombarded leading politicians and scientists all over the world with endless speeches and pamphlets about the world being invaded by friendly aliens in their spaceships.

Serious UFOlogist Per Andersen is naturally dismayed because, as he says of these people's efforts to persuade such luminaries of influence; "Unfortunately (IGAP) achieve the opposite effect and cause politicians etc. to laugh at them."

The Danish Prime Minister (Poul Schluter) was a target of this somewhat offensive offensive in 1987, in which IGAP (certainly not ones to be modest) requested that the PM set up a secret meeting between themselves and both the Defence and Foreign ministers so they might discuss tactics on the handling of their 'space brothers'. After trying several times they resorted to heart-felt begging and the PM ultimately wrote and concluded that he saw "no basis for such a meeting".

As Per Andersen points out, such activities have to be countered by serious UFOlogists to defend the credibility of the subject.

Looking through the excellent Danish investigations by UFO Nyt (UFO-News) it is clear that the phenomenon is as active as ever. Most of the cases seem to predate 1987 (have reports tailed off in Scandinavia?) But there are fine accounts of a car at Hobro 'held up' by a UFO. Two beams of such intense power that they left the driver blinded (and created red after-images on his retina for several hours). Fortunately the engine cut off and the driver could let the vehicle coast to a (luckily) safe halt... And at Blodmosen a woman on her moped was attacked by another brilliant light that drained all energy from the machine for a few seconds, before pulling it over the brow of a hill. An almost identical event befell a motorcyclist in County Durham in June 1977.

Vehicle interference cases are the subject of a special report by Geoff Falla of BUFORA, which is still available. They are amongst the most consistent reports on record and the hundreds of detailed stories clearly show that some type of strange but completely physical energy force (probably a new type of natural phenomenon) is responsible. This is where UFOlogy truly does blend into science, but unhappily most scientists run the other way because of wild media tales of 'little green men' that rarely have anything to do with it!

UFO-Nyt have also demonstrated just how a photographic case should be handled. Presented on the front page of a Norwegian paper in August 1984 it depicted a classic flat disc hovering in daylight above wooded mountain slopes. Years of hard graft followed.

The newspaper carried comments from various photographic experts that the picture could not be fabricated by double exposure or superimposition techniques and superficial analysis did show that the lighting on the UFO was consistent with the position of the sun as illustrated by the landscape background. This can be achieved in superimposition hoaxes but is tricky. However, the cautious UFOlogist became worried when KODAK started to publish adverts using the photograph with the shout-line "Buy the UFO Camera" - plugging the KODAK disc system which the witness utilised!

When investigation got underway it was sophisticated and involved use of an electron microscope at a metallurgical laboratory. It assessed the negative for any faint signs of tampering (there were none). In the end computer enhancement was carried out by Ground Saucer Watch in Arizona (a team of specialists that use space-age methods, digitising the data and then reconstituting this in more detail). The results were significant. A faint vertical line rising up from the top centre of the disc was uncovered. The analysts admitted it could not be positively stated this was not just a coincidental scratch in an inconvenient place, but they thought it was the string that held up a model. Confronted with all of this mass of investigation the witness broke down and admitted the fake with by the precise method suggested. He did it to teach the public to be more sceptical of UFO photos in the newspapers!

*Data for this section: Kim Moller Hansen and Per Andersen*

FRANCE:

Separated by just over 20 miles of ocean (soon to be a barrier no more thanks to the Channel Tunnel) it is very true to say that French UFOlogy is amongst the world's elite yet is virtually unknown to English speakers. They publish excellent magazines (such as the delightfully titled *Lumiers dans la nuit* - lights in the night - and the ever provocative and influential *OVNI Presence* - the UFO presence).

Certainly the French do not ignore what goes on elsewhere and are very familiar with British activities. Indeed, in 1987 *OVNI Presence* actually devoted an entire 40 pp issue to Great Britain with articles by and interviews with all the leading figures. Can you see any English language journal ever doing the same sort of special on France?

Regular cross channel meetings have occurred since 1983 (meeting at a port or seaside town on either side of the channel in alternate years). But these are poorly attended by British researchers afraid of the language problem. They should make the effort, because not only does France have some important cases, but it's UFOlogists are amongst the most perceptive in the world. Whilst Dr Jacques Vallee (upon whom the scientist in Spielberg's movie 'Close Encounters of the third kind' was very closely based) and Aime Michel have become international figures through English translations of their significant books, there are others whose work is less known - such as Bertrand Meheust, whose writings link UFOs with science fiction and mythology and is probably the leading historical UFOlogist currently active. British science-fiction author Ian Watson dedicated his seminal novel of UFO reality (*Miracle Visitors*, Grafton Books) to Meheust and is one of the few to learn of this work.

During this period the French government sponsored a UFO team (GEPAN) which went into recession. Indeed this latest re-organisation, hot on the heels of an earlier one that made them far more secretive and less publicly visible, seems to have been a disbanding followed by the creation of a new unit with different guidelines. Until recently GEPAN was the idol of all UFO communities - a team of scientists at the Toulouse space centre, exceptionally well funded and with trained investigators from the special gendarmerie following up cases and calling in the scientists whenever there was hard evidence. Several in-depth (book length) case histories were issued, including the major report on a landing in a field at Trans-en-Provence where inexplicable changes to the chemical composition of plants was left behind. Indeed Jean Velasco, head of GEPAN, presented a paper on this very case to the MUFON conference in the USA in June 1987. That was almost unprecedented and his optimistic words about the world's only public and government funded scientific UFO project were received with great interest.

Now we wonder where the future will take us. The French UFOlogists have always been more suspicious of GEPAN than outsiders, suspecting a 'whitewash' but of note is the first review of a statistical analysis of several hundred cases conducted by the 'science council' just a year or so after GEPAN's launch in 1978. This stated that 'great vigilance' was necessary in how to present to the public (if at all!) the results of even this preliminary work, because it proved the reality of UFOs!

More statistical work is going on in France, this time out in the open. The major project is called Becassine, masterminded by Denys Breyse. The major failing of all UFO data bases is that you need a lot of material to make them statistically significant, but most case reports are of dubious quality and investigated by amateurs. So Becassine singles out just entity cases (third and fourth kind close encounters) and alongside all the normal information coded into the computer gives a score for its reliability according to the amount of data accumulated by a proficient investigation. This means that the final results that emerge from any cross-comparisons are of more value than most.

By the end of 1988 Breyse had an astonishing 2003 entity reports on the file - but is constantly on the look out for more detailed reports on new cases, explained or unexplained - with as much information as possible on these (c/o 9 Av. St. Exupery 92160 Antony (F) France).

Breyse has now produced the first fruits of this mammoth enquiry. They show, for example, that the following are the 'high point' years for entity cases (1897 - 88, 1954 - 204, 1973 - 129 and 1976 - 99). If only unexplained/high value cases are taken 1954 still comes out top; although 1967 had an amazing one-third of its 97 cases in this category. In terms of months, October and August (well over 200 each) are the active periods whereas March only records 77 (virtually one quarter of the October total). That this may well be significant is illustrated by the fact that day of the month shows no statistical variations at all - so there seems no serious breakdown in the validity of the method.

In terms of the time of observation, most occur between 20.00 and 24.00 hours; although there is a major peak between 02.00 and 04.00 hrs also (which some researchers see as evidence for 'hallucinations', because altered states of consciousness during normal sleeping hours are commonplace during that period).

Most encounters with entities last between 3 and 8 minutes; although there are many more cases that last longer than this duration than there are of shorter length. This is in stark contrast to standard UFO sightings which tend to last under 2 or 3 minutes.

Nearly 70% of witnesses are men, but when only unexplained cases are taken into account the number of female witnesses rises significantly. You may read into that whatever you will! Indeed one can work out a sort of 'typical observer' of an entity from the figures, so you can calculate your chances of being one. It pays to be alone (over 65%) and to be on a quiet road or track in the country (45%). If you are under 30 years of age that makes a big difference too (only 35% of witnesses are older)...and you are most at risk if you happen to be driving your car or a farmer...So single, male farmers under 30 should be advised that if they drive their car on a lonely country road at around 2 am they are most at risk of kidnap by aliens!

Another fascinating piece of news is that more people said the UFO (normally grounded) made a humming/whistling/buzzing noise than said it was completely silent. Most UFOs without entities make no noise at all.

Turning to the description of the entities seen; these were usually of relatively human appearance and one quarter of them were between 3 and 4 feet in height and less than half were of normal human stature or taller. And a word for those wary of such contacts; less than 3% feature any form of attack by the entity on the witness - scuppering all those science-fiction movie notions of nasty aliens invading the earth. Most often they communicate by telepathy or (even more probably) get on with the job of monitoring instruments or the environment and shun the witness altogether! Indeed, when reported the beings are said to behave as 'curious', 'friendly', 'cautious' and 'secretive' in descending order of probability.

It would seem that Project Becassine has a great deal to offer the UFO research community and we encourage everyone to participate.

*Data for this section: Denys Breyse and Perry Petrakis*

### ISRAEL:

An unusual country to provide UFO news to report, but it does show that the phenomenon is truly world-wide in nature. However, never before (so far as I am aware) has a physical trace reputedly left by a UFO been explained as the scorched silhouette of its alien pilot!

The event occurred in Haifa on 28 September 1987. A garage manager, Ami Achrai was returning home from Tel Aviv at 22.25 hours when he spotted a bright light low down over the sea. It was in view around 15 seconds. The navy were very quick to suggest that it was one of their flares. There were testing them at the time. However, Mrs Achrai is convinced because her husband was "as white as a sheet" when he came home. As the sparkling UFO had been over beach areas of Shar Aliyah the 27 year old witness went to the location and found a strange burn on the ground. He told his wife only after great soul searching and when he spoke on the phone with his father 'who knows about such things' (as she advised) she told him to lower his voice "so the neighbours won't hear and think you are crazy". The police were called to inspect the mark which soon became the talk of Haifa.



Journalists flocked from all over the country and it brought out the Israeli UFO movement too. Hadassa Arbell, apparent leader of a UFO group, alleged that the scorch came from 'cold fire' radiation as the UFO suffered engine trouble and twisted around attempting to avoid doom. The mark in the thistle growth was the silhouette of the 3 feet tall pilot with outstretched arm shielded by protective clothes. However, local citizens scoffed at this staggering piece of imaginative deduction - and pointed to a fairly suspicious looking bottle discarded nearby. Did this hint that the supernatural remains had a rather more mundane origin?

ITALY:

I am not quite sure what it is about Italy but (with the possible exception of Britain!) it has the highest incidence of what the media would dub 'star wars' - battles between rival UFO associations.

In 1987 this saw - in the words of one renegade, Edoardo Russo - "the greater part of (Italian UFOlogists) - at least the active ones and all the intellectuals" having quit the main body - CUN (National UFO Centre). They set up their own team named CISU (Italian UFO Study Centre) CUN's major die-hard, Roberto Pinotti attended the MUFON conference in Washington DC that June and gave a devastating attack on the rebels, which was delivered with such obvious vitriol you could almost see the steam rising from the lectern. Not to be outdone, Russo and Gian Paolo Grassino of the newly founded CISU issued a major 'fact-packed' dossier rebutting all of the charges, defending their group and hacking at the very foundations of CUN.

It was the sort of stuff that keeps lawyers in clover and UFOlogy is sadly beset by such dramas. Now it seems that an uneasy calm has ultimately settled over the proceedings. If I understand the situation correctly (and I fully admit that this may be probable but not certain!) the dispute - to put it mildly - stems from disagreement over basic approaches to the subject. In a nutshell CUN seem more cover-up orientated whilst CISU wish to flex semi-sceptical muscles and build a team of hard-nosed investigators. We can only judge from the published output, in which case CISU presently seem (in my purely personal opinion) to be winning hands down. However, I doubt we have heard the last of this latin fracas just yet.

In 1987 CISU celebrated their new freedom and four decades of UFOlogy in a big way, becoming the first UFO group to commission the survey team Gallup to poll the Italian population about UFOs. This survey reported that only 19% believe in UFOs (but the question was posed in such a way as to imply that a UFO was a 'spaceship'). This had fallen since the last Gallup survey in 1979 when the figure was 35% (then high due to the Spielberg movie - 'Close Encounters of the third kind'). Gallup added that a British survey in 1981 had shown 24% 'believers' and in 1986 that, too, had fallen to 19%, although the events of the next two years will almost certainly raise these figures. In the USA a Gallup survey showed nearly 50% 'believe' in UFOs - highlighting the cultural differences very obviously! But I wonder how many UFOlogists might have said 'no' to the question proposed - one can 'believe' in UFOs without accepting what most untrained people interpret such a term to mean.

The Italian survey also discovered that 6.5% of the population claimed to have seen a UFO. That is 3 million Italians; although CISU files record only 10,000 of these cases. The figure is probably similar all over the world which provides the shocking fact that 99.7% of all UFO sightings are not on UFO group archives and so our conclusions about the subject are forged from a fraction so small it might even be statistically irrelevant! This was also independent of social groupings strongly implying UFOs are an objectively real, not sociological issue. And only 4% had never heard of UFOs - which Gallup found very low.



Both of the big-sell American books on abduction cases received Italian language translations. Strieber's "Communion" was packaged and promoted almost identical with the rest of the world; although Budd Hopkins "Intruders" came from a small publisher with low-key publicity. "Communion" was heavily touted in the media and was not well recieved, according to the CISU review of 1987. Edoardo Russo alleged that many journalists missed the point of Strieber's true-life and terrifying abduction and "misunderstood that the book was a novel...not all of them connected it with UFOs."

Of course, the climate of interest generated false perceptions and hoaxes from a suddenly enlightened public. On 17 August 1987 thousands of people reported a UFO over northern Italy. It turned out to be a bright meteor. A few weeks later, on 20 September, an anonymous report described a UFO departing from a field at Costeggiola near Verona. Police found three circles of burnt grass in a triagle formation (the triangle being a key element of Strieber's abduction memories). CISU investigations, including the chemical analyses of the soil, lead to deep suspicions that the thing was a hoax.

Inevitably the media played UFOs for all they were worth and the attention certainly surpassed what Britain saw (where the Strieber/Hopkins books were only of brief concern). It almost rivalled the US attention. CISU reckon the best was a two hour debate between various CISU members (!) (although of different persuasions it seems). This was on RAI Uno the state network. RAI Tre (the third channel of the network) also broadcast what CISU estimate to be the worst of no less than ten offerings on UFOs. This was a two and a half hour sideshow with a contactee (Eugenio Siragusa) waiting atop Mount Etna for a mass landing live before the cameras. Needless to say nothing happened ... and we complain about cheap summer re-runs!

*Data for this section: Edoardo Russo and Maurizia Verga*

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#### NEW ZEALAND:

The arrival of "Communion" in New Zealand sparked more people to reassess their past and wonder if dim memories might hide a possible abduction by UFOs, just in the way Strieber claimed to have discovered his own. This duplicates a pattern seen all over the world since the start of 1987.

Typical of these cases is that of Fred from Auckland who read my book "Abduction" and so came into contact with UFOlogy. Ever since he first saw the alien face that dominates the cover of "Communion" he was obsessed and agitated by it. He was so perturbed because of what happened at age 3 years old in 1942. This is a year that some UFOlogists say is significant in the lives of many abductees; although Fred did not apparently know that and had no obvious way to do so.

His memory is vague, but he knew that he was "somewhere else" and had seen the face, which was "a bit more rounded on top but otherwise the same face as on the book cover...I don't know how I got to that place but I had something attached to my back by my shoulders. I was told how to use it, It had a membrane like wings on and the colour was brownish."

Fred has always lived with these images of being in a rounded space with other humans also wearing such devices. He says that when he was told that they now had to return to their homes; "I recall crying - a very deep crying like a hurt or sadness." Again a very common reaction.

During childhood in Christchurch (starting well before the UFO era in 1947) Fred used to find himself floating away and being surrounded by small coloured lights that invaded his bedroom. This is once again another typical claim of abductees from their early years.

As Fred grew he moved to Auckland to live his own life. He still had the floating sensations and vivid dreams of UFOs in the sky. Then he was in a restaurant on his own when some people came in and looked straight at him, smiling. In his head a strange electrical sound was occurring. The same thing has repeated on many occasions until he confronted one of the people. His head was awash with the strange noise and he was unable to speak but the smiling girl said 'not just now' and walked on.

Fred has had a close encounter also. He recalls watching a rounded ellipse with bright yellow lights on drift lazily across the sky above the Harbour and Sugar Works in Mount Albert. Nobody else apparently saw the thing and there are hints that hidden memories might exist.

This is very consistent with other claims by the new breed of 'Silent Contact'. Countless numbers are being brought into the open by the massive attention the abduction phenomenon has attracted. This telepathic rapport with 'smiling' humans who seem to share an inner secret with the puzzled witness is another clue that crops up frequently but is little known in public terms and likely to be somehow relevant.

The problem is making the distinction between objective and subjective reality. Should we tell Fred and the thousands now like him that he clearly is a possible abductee, that we should study him through hypnotic regression, see what emerges and evaluate any deeper claims of alien contact as part of a 'true' pattern to be analysed? Or should we ponder the thought that society might be talking themselves into pseudo-abduction memories and utilising knowledge subconsciously obtained to come up with an appropriate scenario? If this is true then hypnosis might only complicate matters for our research by stimulating fantasies - not to mention what that could do to the witness.

As for Fred, he has his own ideas about the meaning of his fragmented memories. He wonders if "some people are abducted and returned to be simply used as a sort of relay to communicate with the others living here on earth (ie the aliens)."

SCANDINAVIA:

Norway and Sweden will forever be associated with Project Hessdalen - undoubtedly the one place where UFO research was at its most exciting during the past decade. This remote Norwegian valley near the Arctic Circle has been producing light phenomena by the cartload, mostly in January, since the early eighties. Several expeditions out there (in terrible sub-zero temperatures) have stayed for weeks with masses of complex equipment ranging from spectrographs to lasers and successfully photographed several of the coloured lights.

There can now be no doubt whatsoever that the Hessdalen UFOs exist - the only question left is what causes them? All the evidence points to a strange natural atmospheric effect of some kind - but that is still a UFO, of course. Indeed it is what UFOlogy is really all about.

Some technical reports on the project have been published in English by researchers such as Odd Gunner Roed. But now Leif Havik has produced a full length book in his native land bringing the facts of these brave and testing missions. Titled "UFO-Fenomenet" ("The UFO Phenomenon - Can the impossible be possible?") it was published in 1987 by Vision Forlag of Trondheim.

Attention has at least partially switched to another part of Scandinavia - the Dalecarlia region of Sweden. In 1985 - 87 several numerous sightings flooded in from here and so eventually winter research weeks were devoted to seeking similar light phenomena to those in the neighbouring country. Many reports have more material substance to them than Hessdalen offers - see the sightings later in this booklet. But predictably life has not been easy for these hardy UFOlogists.

The region is much bigger than the relatively small valley in Norway so Project Hessdalen were forced to set up a series of watch-tower sites. However, whilst the Norwegian defence and scientific establishments were wonderfully helpful in Hessdalen (loaning very expensive equipment) the same was not true in Sweden. Spectrographic and infra-red photography were still possible, but the more adventurous opportunities available in Norway (where even radar systems were installed on site) did not prove economic in Dalecarlia.

Unluckily, the period chosen for the test expedition (6 - 13 January 1987) did not prove very active. The best incident came at 19.05 hours on 9 January at the Sater tower when a red light flew by, then veered off in another direction and started to pulsate. By bad fortune the team were relocating the cameras at the time and so only a few pictures were obtained, and none with the spectrograph. Nevertheless the photographs that were obtained offer hope for the future.

More projects will follow if better equipment can be secured but an excellent detailed report (in English) describing the main events at Dalecarlia in 1985-87 is now available from Johan Kinneryd at Box 71 S-77101 Ludvika Sweden.

Elsewhere in Scandinavia the research team AFU have been continuing their project studying the spate of 'ghost rocket' sightings that pre-empted by one year (in 1946) the UFO phenomenon proper. At the time it was thought these were Soviet testings of captured Nazi V weapons but the phenomenon has a much deeper and more intriguing dimension to it.

Now it seems the whole subject has updated itself. The reports of submarines in Scandinavian waters have been so credible that they have even made news items in Britain and reported in a perfectly serious context. Again the Russians have been blamed by western commentators; although there is scant evidence for this assertion and the subs have the remarkable ability to dematerialise when close to capture.

More recently still, sightings of what AFU call "ghost cruise missiles" are pouring in and they believe these three phenomena may well be inter-related. It will be worth awaiting the results of this comparative analysis.

Finally, how is this for an offer? The Swedish defence archives at the Research Institute of National Defence have been laid bare for AFU! The unit lets the UFOlogists borrow documents one by one from Stockholm, copy them on their own copier and then take them back! There are around 2000 reports to be filed covering the years from 1947 to date. AFU advise that most are routine and of low interest but there are some gems that are requiring further study - including radar-visuals involving air force pilots.

The likelihood of such an offer coming BUFORAs way from Britain's defence establishments is estimated at somewhere close to zip.

*Data for this section: Johan Kinneryd and Anders Liljegren*

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### SOVIET UNION:

Glasnost truly has arrived in the USSR. Not so long ago one leading UFOlogist had to flee the country by entering into a fake marriage with an obliging Finish UFO researcher after his lectures had been broken up by the KGB. Now his colleagues have been back to attend the first officially allowed UFO conference taking place behind the Iron Curtain.

Of course, sightings have been coming in from this vast land for many years - and we know about landings, entities, even abductions that have been recorded. A government team lead by a former Cosmonaut, Pavel Popovich, and including a number of scientists from the Moscow Academy of Sciences, has been operational for some time. Indeed there are reasons to suspect that the shooting down of the Korean Airlines Jumbo Jet in September 1983 was not unrelated to the UFO mystery!

This catastrophe is variously reported to have been a tragic mistake (the Soviets believing the packed civil airliner to be on a spy mission) or a deliberate provocation, as the aircraft was well off its course and above secret Soviet airspace. But there is a fascinating prequel.

Less than six months before the last fateful flight of the Korean Boeing 747 ground control at Gorky was in a turmoil. On 27 March 1983 a UFO was picked up on radar clearly intruding above this highly secret location where air traffic is very strictly controlled. It was seen from the ground (and probably mid-air also) as a grey cigar shape without wings or tailfin. It cruised over Gorky at just 3000 feet and a relatively sedate speed, failing to respond to all radio warnings issued. In the end no order to shoot was given, but the incident must have stuck in the mind of worried Soviet authorities and the 'commission' set up under Cosmonaut Popovich soon afterward cited this case as unexplained and a key factor in the decision to launch a high-level enquiry.

Seen in this context the actions of the controllers at Komchatkha later that summer become more defensible. Here was another UFO over even more secret air space at Sakhalin Island. According to the Russians it also failed to respond to warnings. So this time a missile was launched and blew the jet and all its passengers out of the sky.

After this drama - for which the Soviets received surprising little in the way of reprisals from the USA - things altered rapidly on American-Soviet relationships. Treaties were signed, weapons were being reduced, new friendships forged and President Ronald Reagan even justified his work on 'star wars' laser technology by speaking of it as a means for joint defence of the earth against attack from outer space should a defence ever be necessary.

It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that these events are inter-related. Perhaps the reality of the UFO phenomenon was finally driven home by the disaster above Sakhalin Island and moves were made (in secret, as usual) to ensure that it should never happen again.

On 22 April 1987 another Boeing 747 was involved in an incident above the USSR. This time the location was Kazakhstan and the aircraft belonged to British Airways.

In fact, the crew of this Jumbo had taken a major risk by diverting from their route and passing through Soviet Air Space against their flightplan. They did so, the pilot alleged, in order to avoid collision with a UFO that headed directly toward them. It was a mass of twinkling lights. This time the Soviet ground control picked up nothing on radar.

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## SPAIN:

Are abductions a "transposition" of the UFO phenomenon? That is the question being posed in Spain by Vincente Juan Ballester Olmos and J A Fernandez. They say that "respected abductions have come to substitute discredited contacts - a sort of transmutation from the old-time, naive early space-age stories to contemporary, sophisticated technology-age stories." However, the whole business was a late arrival in Spain - with the first public presentation of such a case as late as 1979, well behind Britain (late sixties) and even further behind the USA (mid sixties).

A study of some 3500 respected UFO cases by these researchers has revealed 230 that are termed first calibre close encounters. But only six of them rate as abductions. According to population size, the number of cases and active UFOlogists this figure ought to be considerably higher (Britain, for instance, in a similar situation has about eight times as many).

Looking in detail at these "pure abductions" it is noted that only one predates the movie Close Encounters of the third kind (allegedly occurring in July 1946 in Murcia but not reported until 1982.) Just a glance at the entities involved in these few cases speaks volumes...two normal looking men (Guadalajara), tall entities with pointed chins (Soria), two tall hairy creature (Barcelona), green monstrous beasts (Barcelona)...and in one instance beings so like humans that the abductee stayed on their planet for four years and married one called Maria! (He said that he ultimately had to 'escape' this contrived affair on a world known as Galaxy 38).

Not surprisingly the scientific UFOlogists conclude that this evidence is not exactly corroborative or persuasive. They pull no punches, concluding that "All cases have been reasonably explained in terms which do not defy present-day knowledge. Conventional scenarios deeply rooted in psychological and fraudulent backgrounds, have been found. In none of the cases was extraordinary evidence presented to support an anomalous event."

They make the telling point that the abductee often comes out of the experience not sure of its reality status and using terms like 'mystical' to describe it. If it were a 'real world' event then the trauma of kidnap or rape that is associated would never achieve this status. That implies that the experience is subjective in origin.

Another aspect of these Spanish UFO researchers work has been to discover 'eras' within the abduction data and correlate them with main stimuli. They note four - 1967-69 (where the phenomenon begins thanks to the publicity of the Betty and Barney Hill case from the USA...all the 'new' cases discovered by witnesses and UFOlogists depend to some extent on this prototype and are only found because people now know such a thing is possible - why did they not emerge spontaneously beforehand if they are truly prevalent?...Early-Mid Seventies (typical cases now rise steadily and a major event in Pascagoula, Mississippi achieves wide publicity and initiates a pattern of robotic 'examinations')...Late seventies-1982 (books begin to appear reinforcing the template and setting a mental image within society)...1983-87 (the abduction begins to wane as its peak is reached - but look out because along come the dramas of 1987 to ensure the phenomenon is born anew and can reach new heights that see it the 'in' thing to be an abductee).

To close the two UFOlogists state: "Our assessment of actual cases...plus our analysis of the global picture of the problem, strongly suggests that the abduction syndrome is psychological in nature - at least the weirdest part of it."

Data for this section: V.J Ballester Olmos and J A Fernandez



UNITED KINGDOM:

If you compare the next few pages with the discussion which follows on American UFOlogy during this same period then you will notice something. Britain reflected a similar pattern, although perhaps it was slightly more restrained and to a lesser degree. The parallels which occurred are of somewhat fascinating sociological relevance.

These two years were marked by the rise of tabloid journalism and its handling of the UFO problem. BUFORA subscribes to a press cuttings agency and prior to 1987 received around 200 - 300 of these items per annum describing UFOs in national and provincial sources. In 1987 and 1988 the cumulative total was 1400! As you can see from that fact, UFOlogy was suddenly the 'in' thing to write about. Whilst it reflected to some extent a rise in the number of sightings after the 'dark ages' of the decade when UFOs had almost vanished without trace, the new wave of media activity represents less a new spate of reports and more a new found realisation that UFOs do sell copy.

The typical UFO item is well illustrated by how a cheap Sunday scandal sheet, the *Sunday Sport*, escaped from obscurity and near oblivion by discovering the commercial appeal of wild UFO tales. Wild is certainly the operative word and by new years eve at the end of 1988 serious 'reviews' of what had gone in the months before were using the *Sport's* obsession with UFOlogy as fodder for comedy routines. We must wonder about the effects on our subjects credibility of the newspaper's absurd accounts describing World War Two bombers dumped on the moon by aliens or children turned into olives by ET ray guns (to then be swallowed in a martini by the investigating police officer!)

However, of much deeper concern than these obvious tall tales - told as true mainly because they sound better - is the way UFOlogists have been foolish enough to eagerly help the *Sport* make idiots out of them.

We were all caught out in the early months when nobody believed the British press could stoop so low. I gave one interview to the paper about abduction cases from which they extracted a bland sentence, wrote an entire article round it in such a way as their words sounded like summaries of my comments (but were in fact their own reporters ludicrous thoughts or questions!) and advised Britain that my new book was full of tales about 'bonking beasts' on an 'alien lust hunt'. Needless to say that did sales of said book no harm but probably left a lot of disappointed readers when they saw what was really inside the covers! That taught me a lesson and I made sure all serious UFO researchers knew to steer clear of this new rag. That some UFOlogists nearly two years on continue to supply inane quotes and then complain about being taken out of context says a lot for their gullibility (or desire to be in the limelight).

Television promoted UFOs widely also. Most major 'light' current affairs series tackled it at some point (although no serious ones risked the issue). A Channel 4 Halloween documentary in 1987 even invented a ridiculous expose of one case (Rendlesham Forest/December 1980), staying 'objective' by purposely avoiding all the witnesses or investigators!

From very early in 1987 we knew that four major books were set for release during a six week spell in mid summer. That period also saw London host an international BUFORA congress. This level of attention for the subject had something to do with the 40th anniversary of the start of the modern UFO era (24 June 1947 - 1987) but was certainly unprecedented in its concentration. Of these books the two destined to achieve most public recognition were Strieber's "Communion" (arriving three months after its US release) and Tim Good's massive tome about the 'worldwide UFO cover-up', "Above Top Secret" (which fortuitously caught the national mood of the Peter Wright / 'Spycatcher' repression and was on sale when that 'book of secrets' was banned, so proving popular).

Nevertheless, all the books faced two major obstacles which prevented even "Communion" gaining anything like the level of respect and public support it attracted elsewhere (particularly the USA). The first of these was Britain's natural tendency to be conservative and sceptical of any seemingly outlandish claims (however well supported they may be). The second was much more subtle in form.

A couple of months before abductee, Whitley Strieber, arrived in Britain the Aetherius Society decided to run a massive media campaign for themselves. They are a surprisingly influential and widespread community (who deny the status 'cult' frequently applied to them). They were founded over 30 years ago by a London taxi driver/chauffeur and whilst still strongest in native Britain have spread round the world with remarkable durability. The Aetherians contest that their founder (now possessing titles such as 'Sir' and 'Reverend') is in telepathic contact with aliens (including Jesus on Venus) and through them channel 'prayer power' that dilutes catastrophes and wars and generally help out the spaceship flying aliens in their mission here on earth. Do not expect any proof of this as it is largely a matter of belief and commitment, but the society impress journalists with their erudite and obviously intellectual team of leaders with titles stressing their alleged role as scientists or 'doctors'.

You might think these people are fine for the occasional light-hearted filler, but the campaign they engineered in the lead up to those four serious books was amazing. It effectively ensured that Strieber was sent winging back to America openly cursing the sadistic British media who refused to ask sensible questions but treated his deeply personal and traumatising experiences as another Aetherius style wheeze to be subjected to scorn and ridicule. As for the serious UFOlogists whose books also appeared, they did not even have a bizarre first-hand tale to offer. Logic and discernment about UFOs were of no interest whatsoever after weeks of excesses about the Aetherians (who told of the earth being under attack by the 'Fish Men' and how the Martians now working in cooperation with the group had saved us all from this fishy fate).

There was distress amongst some UFOlogists that such a clever campaign (which allegedly included a team of 'public relations' officers primed to set it up) was so unfortunately timed. It did destroy all real hope of serious UFOlogy becoming elevated toward respectability by what was later released. Bad luck it certainly was.

With Strieber's impact so minimal in Britain it was really left to Tim Good and his "Above Top Secret". This was a fine (huge) volume crammed packed with documents and hard facts about the way governments all over the world have struggled to investigate UFOs - and usually then obscured those investigations. The (fully supportive) foreword was penned by no less an authority than the former chief of staff at the British Ministry of Defence - ex Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Hill Norton. You can see the danger this book must have represented - particularly at a time when the other three were coming as well. It is sad, therefore, to note that Tim Good chose to begin by releasing news of the astonishing MJ-12 documents (see USA report) which, he later said, were obtained about the same time as American UFOlogists got them from a 'secret' anonymous source.

On the surface these documents *prove* that the US president knew that spaceships were real. Indeed they had been captured along with alien beings from within. A team of top security experts - MJ-12 - had studied them since as far back as the early fifties.

Unhappily, we now have strong reasons to suspect that these documents may well be disinformation, deliberately planted into the UFO community to make the subject shoot itself in the foot. By making irresponsible claims that were just too far over the top you lose through overkill.

Ponder this. I was the author of one of the other books published during that spell (a history of UFO research country-by-country during the first forty years). By 'coincidence' I was offered explosive top secret documents about the MJ-12 research just as I was completing the text. As it happens a colleague and I made enquiries and left our source aware that we were considering the possibility of disinformation. The offer and documents were suddenly withdrawn in circumstances that imply there was something more to them; perhaps a plot timed to undermine serious UFOlogy at a crucial point. When offered these documents I had no idea that Tim Good and others in the USA already possessed the MJ-12 papers and would unwisely release them seven months later.

It is disturbingly easy to see all of this as a clever plan to defuse the threat of escalating responsible attention for the UFO phenomenon. Possibly someone, somewhere, knew that UFOlogists in their eagerness to 'make their case' would not be able to resist something as tempting as the MJ-12 papers and would thus expose themselves to ridicule by being unable to prove their authenticity. In the process any genuine and highly damaging evidence they would bring into the public domain would be then viewed as suspect and would not alter world opinion in the way that it might have done without the damage MJ-12 wreaked.

In the end Tim Good's excellent book was savaged by critics (although this paradoxically helped sales, if not its credibility). Adrian Berry, an ultra-debunking science correspondent even told readers of the highly influential *Spectator* (1 August 1987) that this carefully methodical and largely factual work was an "evil book... Little of it is original, much of it is false... Mr Good's ideas are those of a maniac. But he writes with a certain coarse eloquence, and there is a danger he might infect others as uneducated as himself."... And Whitley Strieber felt that he was badly treated by the British press!

On the other hand the British MoD became remarkably more liberal during this period. Instead of ignoring UFOlogist enquiries, or issuing bland statements akin to 'we only investigate UFOs to discover if there are any defence implications, but there never are so please go away' - they started to respond to requests from active UFO workers. Some witnesses were told by the MoD to contact BUFORA as the best place to have their sighting investigated. Also the man currently charged with the task of dealing with public enquiries about UFOs even checked files for a required sighting date and sent out copies of any records that the Ministry possessed regarding potentially relevant cases.

In this way we were able to study the distribution list for all incoming cases. MoD figures admitted to the receipt of hundreds of UFO reports every year (via the public, airports, coast guards, police stations etc) and that far from the normal pretence of doing nothing with the data they sent copies to various establishments, including two to the DSTI (department of defence scientific and technical intelligence). Such experts and scientists reputedly review evidence of military advances by potential enemies and have a particular interest in any recovered hardware from space (ie bits of satellites etc).

Elsewhere, UFOlogists such as Philip Mantle found it easy to obtain documents from public records detailing early UFO cases now available after a relaxation of the 'thirty year rule'. This excludes publication through their secret nature until after such a period of time.

Their status as official British documents from the post war years come out through the way they tend to begin ; "*I have the honour to report on the observation of unusual aerial phenomena...*"

The files are most interesting for illustrating the way in which internal governmental discussions dictated the form of answers to questions in the House of Commons. A regular quizmaster was NATO defence committee Major (Now Sir) Patrick Wall, who has retired after 30 years as a member of parliament but is still active as a UFOlogist. Indeed he has recently taken on the role of BUFORA President.

One case heavily promoted in the press at the time happened on 29 April 1957 when a formation of Javelin aircraft over Hampshire were sent after two unidentified targets picked up on radar at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. An intercept over Kent proved impossible as the Javelin's could not catch the targets. Later claims that these objects were identified as other British jets were treated with scepticism - an obvious 'cover up'. But the documents show how and why such a mistake truly did occur. The two planes came from outside Britain, had no standard flight plan and so seemed unidentified to the radar operators.

Much more significant is the case that occurred on 4 April that same year. Newspapers picked up on it (eg *London Evening Standard* 6 April 1957). They reported the claim that the UFOs (never seen but tracked on radar) were caused by a weather balloon; although Wing Commander Walter Whitworth said darkly; "*I have been ordered by the Air Ministry to say nothing about this object.*"

In fact, the confusion is lifted by these released papers which show what really happened. There were several radar stations involved in and around West Freugh in Scotland. The first, at Balscalloch, picked up a stationary object at 50,000 feet. Another radar was switched on to check for malfunctions. It got the same target, which over the space of some ten minutes rose vertically to 70,000 feet then drifted away to the north east at an estimated speed of 70 mph. A radar 20 miles away was then contacted and it locked onto the target clearly.

However, now the object made a sharp and unexpected turn to the south east after having headed on its previous course for around 20 miles. Its speed also increased. Balscalloch were now tracking an object at 50,000 feet moving at 240 mph, but the second radar some miles away was watching objects at just 14,000 feet (at a similar rate of knots). As they began to head towards this (secret) radar they resolved into four blips 4000 yards separate from one another. The other radar back at Balscalloch had now lost the single track (the UFO having passed out of range), so they switched heights and found these new targets, behaving in the precise pattern just described. The four objects then also went out of range.

The blips were described as very strong reflectors and having an apparent size more in keeping with a ship than an aircraft. Weather balloons were rejected (as were other phenomena such as ionized clouds). Crucial were the facts that the speeds were so excessive, the direction altered sharply on one object and they mostly travelled against the wind. The press 'explanation' was - in this case - thus seen to be a spurious cover-up because the authorities simply could not identify these unknown objects.

The file concludes that "the incident was due to the presence of five reflecting objects of unidentifiable type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds."

Data for this section: Peter Hough and Philip Mantle

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#### UNITED STATES:

In November 1986 Jerome Clark, editor of the International UFO Reporter (IUR) - the journal founded by the late Dr J Allen Hynek for his Center for UFO Studies - said; "There is great optimism about next year as conceivably the most significant in the history of the UFO controversy. I have read both the Whitley Strieber and Budd Hopkins manuscripts... and they are two of the most remarkable books ever." He added that intelligence officer 'deep throat' sources were making major promises to the Center that there would be; "significant new revelations between now and the end of the decade."

All of this was being penned during the same period of a couple of weeks that Peter Hough and I were offered the top secret documents about the US government cover-up. Included with them was a reputed autopsy report on one of MJ-12's aliens (small, spindly but human-like.)

The Whitley Strieber book was everything predicted. As a best-selling horror novelist with a number of stories made into movies, his public revelation that he had been abducted (several times) was a major news story throughout the USA. The book was released earlier than planned (in February) and shot up the best-seller lists, soon recouping the reported one million dollars the author was paid in advance.

"Communion" was followed by its sequel "Transformation" in 1988 and cannot possibly be summarised. Readers simply have to read for themselves to form their own impressions. Certainly, as a first-person account of terrifying unearthly experiences written by a professional author of proven stature they do offer a unique insight on the phenomenon.

Hot on the heels came "Intruders" from Budd Hopkins (April). Quite different, but at the same time very complementary, this offered a detailed account of an investigation by the team of psychiatrists and Budd (who is probably the leading UFO abduction researcher in the USA). This was looking into the experiences of a family who had suffered repeated very strange experiences and had come to Budd for help after publication of a previous book. The case was certainly genuine, as was the long term evaluation. I had first met Budd in Nebraska in November 1983 just a few weeks after the case began. He gave a lengthy account (which I taped) of the progress he was making. Even then - over three years before publication - it was obvious this was an extraordinary epic.

In June 1987 the chief witness to this ongoing abduction braved a teeming audience of 500 UFOlogists from all over the world crammed into the Washington DC conference. This was staged by MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) - the other leading group in the USA. She was clearly overwhelmed by it all and both disturbed and awed by her experience but she impressed me with her quiet sincerity, as did Strieber.

In the wake of "Communion" the more analytical approach of Budd Hopkins style of work was well received and "Intruders" went on to be a large success (appearing - in paperback - in Britain and being translated into a couple of languages). "Communion", on the other hand, was eventually published all over the globe and sold literally millions of copies.

The astonishing level of public attention afforded to the question of the UFO abduction experience in the spring and summer of 1987 was entirely because of these books. To an extent there are signs of disagreement between them, and that rift widened as time went by. However, Budd Hopkins stuck to his contention that the evidence from dozens of cases as investigated during the eighties (and the hundreds of others he was now swamped with by would-be abductees) all pointed in one pretty grizzly direction. The aliens were performing genetic experiments on mankind. More specifically they were abducting young women, impregnating them with captured and genetically altered sperm, then removing the fetuses during a later abduction in order to rear the child in an alien environment. Such an utterly staggering proposition (backed by a degree of evidence - so long as you take it at face value) inevitably stirred up even more media furore.



By the time the Washington DC conference was held - to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the first UFO sightings - the subject was being treated as front page news, with almost every influential newspaper and magazine or TV show giving it serious coverage. There was very little of the scepticism and outright hostility displayed in Britain - possibly a product of either greater gullibility in the USA or needless caution on this side of the Atlantic.

Formerly sceptical UFOlogists like Jerome Clark were now writing articles and giving lectures about the 'fall and rise' of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. Scientists were speaking about abductions having proven the reality of aliens. Prominent UFO researchers were hailing both Hopkins and Strieber as demi-gods, even though Strieber was already turning against parts of the UFO movement, forming his own outlets and advising potential abductees flocking to him by the reputed cartload to go to see psychiatrists rather than UFOlogists. The victims who wrote after reading "Communion" included some important and influential people; - so he told a stunned audience of leading researchers gathered in a hot and sultry American University complex.

Strieber had endorsements from psychiatrists, psychologists and lie detector tests - so his apparent sincerity seemed in little doubt. So, as he prepared to fly off to Britain and face the unexpected wrath of the media, America was left in a state of high excitement with new and influential articles almost every week leading to responsible and growing interest amongst the scientific community.

Now Jerome Clark told me in a 19 March 1987 letter; "(There is) a flurry of rumours ... about an imminent 'Announcement' of some kind. Something big is in the works; that much is clear. What is less clear is whether it will come off. We have it from several reliable sources that major revelations are coming, apparently over network television." A few weeks later (13 May 1987) he added; "The story has circulated since early in the year that highly placed sources were about to tell what the US government knows and when, why and how it knew it."

William Moore is a Californian UFOlogist who was a chief investigator of the alleged crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 (subject of his book with Charles Berlitz - "The Roswell Incident") and also co-researcher and author of the book, "The Philadelphia Experiment" (later made into a fiction movie of the same title). This described alleged strange scientific experiments into teleportation and invisibility using 'magic' technology. He has been a key figure in the battle to uncover documents appertaining to UFOs from the US authorities ever since the Freedom of Information Bill theoretically gave citizens access to anything the intelligence agencies possessed (or anything that did not put security in jeopardy, at least).

Moore edits his own newsletter called 'Focus' and announced in May 1987 that he and others "have succeeded in establishing a cooperative relationship with a number of well placed contacts within the American intelligence community. As a result certain information has been made available..."

Moore published tidbits of this information - supposedly relating to MJ (or Majestic) 12 - the team of experts recruited by the President to study crashed spaceships and aliens. We had heard rumours of this for some time and, of course, I had terrible feelings of déjà vu about all this drama considering the events that had befallen Peter Hough and myself only a few months earlier.

At precisely this point (late May 1987) Tim Good went one step further and released what he had on MJ-12. This was apparently without William Moore's knowledge (Moore had been preaching caution to prevent premature disclosure from stalling the leakage of more documents). Good arranged for the story to appear in a British newspaper and made clear that more would be in his forthcoming book. William Moore (as he told us all four weeks later in Washington) now had no choice but to release everything that he had got - which effectively turned out to be the same material as Tim Good revealed (possibly both via the same source).

Essentially, these MJ-12 documents comprise a briefing file penned on behalf of President-Elect Dwight D Eisenhower prior to his ascension in late 1952. The frontispiece contains the dire warning "This is a TOP SECRET-EYES ONLY document containing compartmentalized information essential to the national security of the United States. EYES ONLY ACCESS to the material herein is strictly limited to those possessing Majestic-12 clearance level..."

The document lists the names of MJ-12 personnel as at November 1952 - which comprised leading figures, such as Admiral's, CIA chiefs and prominent scientists like Dr Vannevar Bush and Lloyd Berkner. The one big surprise was the inclusion of Dr Donald Menzel - who in the fifties had been an arch sceptic of UFOs, frequently debunking cases and writing books and articles claiming the subject to be a delusion. The actual content of the file itself is very thin, being a brief discussion of the supposed Roswell crash in 1947 and how four dead aliens of small but human-like appearance were captured and code-named EBE (ie Extraterrestrial Biological Entities). This fascinated me, because in the documents I was offered some months earlier a very similar statement was made; although a separate (similar) acronym was used.

The MJ-12 material when published in full by William Moore also contained what seemed to be the order setting up the group (dated 24 September 1947 and signed 'Harry Truman'). There was also an internal memo from Robert Cutler - special assistant to the president - of limited interest save that it mentions the timing of an MJ-12 briefing meeting (without indicating what MJ-12 is about). The Cutler memo is dated July 14, 1954... and was soon found by startled staff in the National Archives in Washington, seemingly correctly located in a bundle of files. The staff claimed that an extensive search of the archives produced none of the other documents or any evidence to support that a project code-named MJ-12 ever existed. It was pointed out that anyone inspecting the archives since the arrival of Freedom of Information could have slipped in a phoney memo fairly easily. Of course, any intelligence agency would have had even simpler methods of getting this file into the archives.

The MJ-12 debate now erupted into a public outcry. The sceptics (and not a few sceptical UFOlogists) preached caution and hinted at deliberately faked material. Moore was insistant and answered all charges. In September 1987 he advised that the Eisenhower briefing document and Truman order had arrived at the home of a Los Angeles TV producer - Jaime Shandera - in December 1984. This was on an undeveloped roll of 35 mm film delivered in an anonymous plain brown wrapper. Shandera was at the time working with Moore and nuclear scientist Stanton Friedman in a project to persuade 'deep throat' sources in the intelligence community to come clean about the great UFO cover up. Only these three knew of the existence of the files for the next two and a half years as they tried to verify their status. They did not know that Tim Good had copies ready to release in the UK.

However, some voluble critics were unappeased by the answers given, including another team of 'cover up' researchers known as CAUS (Citizens against UFO secrecy). They are lead by Barry Greenwood and Larry Fawcett (the men who obtained the famous Halt memo concerning the Rendlesham Forest 'UFO crash' in 1980). They assessed the internal characteristics of the documents, said there were major problems and termed MJ-12 "a grand deception" and "a giant black eye on the face of UFOlogy". Moore/Freidman/Shandera counter argued with facts and the debate raged on. The only real outcome was that nobody proved anything and UFOlogy settled back into the usual confrontational situation of being incredible and discredited.

In the summer of 1989 an astonishing new twist occurred when William Moore gave a lecture to MUFON, where he publicly admitted to shocked UFOlogists that he had acted as a 'plant' for the intelligence community feeding out certain false data and offering information on colleagues in return for official cooperation in his quest to learn 'the truth'. His reputation took an enormous knock and even though the veracity of MJ-12 is not supposed to be effected by these revelations the present mood of UFOlogy has now swung almost full circle. The liklihood is that MJ-12 was disinformation, deliberately planted like a time bomb to stop UFOlogy achieving too much serious respect during 1987.

Whilst MJ-12 was still bubbling yet another sensation broke. This time a man in Gulf Breeze, Florida, claimed to meet Strieber-like aliens and took lots of photographs of UFOs resembling 'lampshades' near his home. Such was the calibre of his evidence - at least in the eyes of a hungry American media - the case became the latest big news around the nation. The leading UFO researchers flocked in and MUFON (who took on the analysis) were quickly endorsing it as of fundamental importance.

The photography and sightings went on from late 1987 into the spring of 1988, by which point a row brewed with the Center for UFO studies, who rebuked MUFON for being 'taken in', labelled the case a probable hoax and asked for restraint in the name of UFOlogy. MUFON responded with extensive tests and obtained 'stereo' camera photographs through the witness. When the analysis data was published in full the case began to seem more impressive and at least still open to question. The Center backed down a little and indicated they were really only concerned about a rush to judgement and its effects in the wake of the MJ-12 affair.

The Gulf Breeze saga drags on even now and is likely to be further polarised by recent news of a forthcoming book that has been granted a very sizeable financial advance and talk of a TV mini-series dramatising the events. MUFON is certainly tied to the case like a prisoner on a stake and it is to be hoped for the sake of their reputation (and UFOlogy's) that the problems which do still cling to the evidence are smoothed out. Acceptability is still some way off for this case.

Whilst Gulf Breeze and the continuing debates over MJ-12 kept the pot stirred during 1988 the affair which turned the year on its head came on 14 October. The long promised TV spectacular came about as a two-hour special beamed all over the country (and to several other countries, including Australia). The programme was entitled "UFO COVER-UP LIVE" and garnered huge ratings thanks to major publicity. I spoke with the team putting it together shortly before it aired (they were interested in using a UK photograph) and they had great aspirations which I knew would not be fulfilled. In the light of what we now know about one of their chief advisors, William Moore, the outcome of the show (which was variously described by UFOlogists as "a debacle", "A hilarious farce" and "poorly done, trivial hokey") had to be predictable.

The largest audience in history for a TV show concerning UFOs were treated to filmed interviews and features on all the 'highlights' (from abductions to Gulf Breeze and MJ-12). But the most eagerly awaited segment involved shots of the two 'deep throat' sources of William Moore - code-named Falcon and Condor. Not only were they not named but their faces were blacked out and their voices electronically altered. They told a fantastic saga about the life and times of EBE-2 whilst on earth; he being one captured alien who actually survived for a time.

EBE seemed a nice little chap (and it is not clear whether some EBEs are still alive and kicking in Uncle Sams Zoo for Alien Species). A 'yellow' book was written full of nostalgic thoughts about life back home wherever EBE came from. And earth-shattering revelations came out concerning the results of all these years of MJ-12 research. What had it told us about this epic civilisation? Top of the list seems to be the fact that aliens are very fond of strawberry ice cream.

Anyone who has not seen the programme probably thinks I am being flip or this is a joke. No - this is the long awaited 'truth' about the cover-up, absolutely straight. Of course, it goes without saying that 99% of all the progress made by UFOlogy throughout 1987 and 1988 has now been permanently tarnished by nonsense such as this.

It is not clear where UFOlogy in the USA goes from here. But it really does need somebody to sit down, take stock of the situation and work out the lessons of these vital years. It may well be that we can glean useful information from them. It may well be that we do not have to go all the way back to square one - although it seems we must be in serious danger of doing that right now.

If someone can get a grip on things in the near future it may not be an irreparable situation. But it will need a slow process of rebuilding before the edifice of American UFOlogy is stable once again.

## SIGHTING REPORTS

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In general it must be said that 1987 was a good year for UFO sightings. Apart from the cases summarised over the following pages most UFO groups world-wide recorded an upsurge in the level of activity. 1988 was not quite so busy, but it should be remembered that I write this review less than a year later and case reports can take time to investigate and filter through into the literature.

It might be argued that the rise in activity during 1987 (certainly well up on the previous four or five years) was tied in directly with the massive publicity for the subject. Those who are sociologically inclined would no doubt say that the public is stirred up, looks at the sky and so invents the UFO phenomenon anew. In fact, the only demonstrable relationship is that by the media focusing attention on UFOlogy witnesses find an incentive to report their observations and also know (often for the first time) where to report them to. Statistics that we met earlier show how only a tiny fraction of sightings are normally made public. The apparent 'wave' in 1987 is primarily caused by some of these being reported in a social climate where we feel less guilty and more willing to face ridicule by telling what we have experienced.

Worth noting is that there has NOT been a tremendous upsurge (at least so far) in the number of abduction cases. Certainly UFO groups have received claims, in the wake of all the publicity, and some people seem to feel that vague tales from their past of UFOs seen, time vanishing from their lives or vivid nightmares might be masks for deeper memories. Yet once they appreciate the hard work and traumas involved in follow-through (eg weeks or months of sessions with a psychiatrist) all but the strongest cases and witnesses fall by the wayside. There has not been the predicted epidemic of abductions flooding the subject (at least not in Britain). The situation in other countries is slightly different (eg Australia generating its first reports and hundreds reputedly flowing in to Whitley Strieber in the USA). Generally, abductions remain a small fraction (less than one per cent) of the total ongoing UFO phenomenon.

Re-evaluation of old cases continues. In Britain, former police officer Alan Godfrey made an important statement about his November 1980 sighting, time loss and hypnotically recalled on-board abduction during a TV programme in February 1988. He confirmed that his experience of the rotating dome which hovered in front of his patrol car was real, but he emphasised a point largely ignored by UFOlogy. The hypnosis began some months later and he thinks it quite possible the vivid but dream-like images which emerged in the doctors surgery could have been the product of UFO books he had read between the sighting and this hypnotic evaluation. That may be a vital clue toward our understanding.

Finally, a new IFO (Identified Flying Object) beset UFOlogy in Italy and Britain. High powered lasers used in entertainment can reflect off clouds by accident. Seen from oblique angles they look remarkably like UFOs darting across the sky. Several major panics have already ensued.

DATELINE: - 17 April 1987

LOCATION: - Soderbarke, Sweden

This is a typical straightforward UFO sighting - which is akin to many that make up much of our unexplained evidence. Two families were together in a house with splendid views over the South Barken waters. It was 23.00 and the sky was dark and full of stars. The two youngest daughters of the families (aged 10) were playing with their dolls. The adults and an older daughter were sat on the sofa. Nobody had UFOs on their mind at all. Suddenly one of the young girls



cried out in hysterics that somebody was flying over the lake. One father describes what he did; "Through the window I saw something long that came floating. I threw myself over the sofa and out onto the terrace. What I experienced visually and emotionally is indescribable." He reports that he stood speechless and

underwent a sensation we call the 'Oz Factor' suggestive of an altered state of consciousness throughout the encounter. "The surroundings no longer existed," he recalls. Other people in the party referred to feeling 'strange' and having 'a sick feeling in the stomach'. The UFO that flew over was sketched by them all and was very similar in each drawing. All reported a basic shape "like two plates put together". The top part was dark, whereas the lower half glowed orange. A peculiar mist out of which the shape seemed to emerge was also seen by most of the seven witnesses. Yet through this a series of vertical lines suggestive of windows in the upper half were evident. The object moved in a strange manner; "It can perhaps be described as something soft, swinging, floating, but at the same time it wobbled with small movements up and down. The frequency of the vibration I estimated to be quicker than one per second." After a silent voyage low across the lake it was "swallowed up" as if a dark cloud suddenly manifested and took it into itself. A vague glow remained visible for a second or two. Then nothing. This sight of a lifetime had gone. One man said; "The feeling afterwards was one of ecstasy."

Investigation: - Vasterbergslagens UFO Association

Conclusion: - Unknown

DATELINE: - 29 April 1987

LOCATION: - Swansea, Wales

A young mother and model was returning home from a night out with her boyfriend and four year old child. The time was 22.30. Her boyfriend noticed some curious lights reflecting off the car as he drove up the drive and into the garage but paid no attention. The mother went to the front door and heard her daughter somewhere behind mumbling for a couple of minutes, apparently talking to herself. But when the girl became more insistent her mother was made to turn around. Her daughter's voice was calling 'ghosties'. Looking back the horrified mother saw a large grey oval mass low over the garden with light all around the rim. Before she could make much progress in its direction the whole phenomenon simply blinked out.

The adults were understandably reluctant to talk. They had been out for a few drinks and whilst not drunk knew how other people might interpret what they had experienced. However, when the mother asked her daughter to sketch the 'ghostie' it turned out to be exactly what she had seen for herself.

The case might have ended here. But follow-up uncovered interesting things. The family had a history of strange experiences (eg apparitions seen). The father had seen a UFO years before whilst out with his mother - *but she couldn't see it!* And once he had camped in the garden at night and whilst he recalled nothing his grandmother had been alerted by a light and through the bedroom window seen an object over the tent projecting a beam of light straight into it.

The family were disinterested in publicity and said they wished they had kept quiet. But the little girl's story was clearly important. She recalls being drawn towards the oval and talking, but has no idea why or what she said. In the following months she had vivid dreams of lights and strange figures and told her mother 'the ghosties have come'. Then the mother had a dream of strange little creatures with large heads and big eyes inside the house but not being unfriendly. They told her that they wanted to help.

This is a classic 'pre-Abduction' case with details that emerged only out of detailed questioning. Much of it the witnesses would have kept hidden by choice and they did not want to explore it any further. It is indicative of how many significant cases lurk within the mundane.

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Investigation:- Tony Mann and Jenny Randles      BUFORA

Conclusion:-      Incomplete but unknown

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DATELINE:- 16 May 1987

LOCATION:- Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

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Radar observations of UFOs tend to be thought of as things from the past, but they still occur - even in the microchip era. This encounter is somewhat less important because no visual observation was made, but the pilot and radar operator had 21 years experience and insisted that during the four minutes of their encounter the crew checked the system thoroughly and no malfunctions or cause for the target was discovered.

The aircraft was a Canadian Airlines International Boeing 737 on a routine internal service from Toronto to Winnipeg. Whilst over the bay the Primus 90 system detected something very strange. Normally this radar only detects large storms ahead of the flight and gives warning so that the pilot can steer around them. Very large aircraft such as Jumbo Jets can be picked up but the object they were tracking was even larger than that. The estimated size was akin to an aircraft carrier!

The target was moving across their path some 50 miles ahead and was not visible. Its speed was extraordinary (estimated to be 5000 mph!) This is far in excess of even the fastest jet and it crossed several hundred miles before disappearing off scope. Air traffic control were called but had nothing in the area to account for the signal. Pilot Rick Olsen said later; "I cannot say that we are the only beings in this universe..."

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Investigation:- Graham Conway, Vancouver

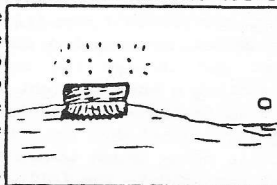
Conclusion:-      Unknown, but possible ground reflection/radar anomaly



DATELINE: - 16 June 1987

LOCATION: - Lawrenny, Tasmania, Australia

An ambulance crew were on their way to Ouse with two patients and nearing their destination at 21.30. Suddenly the lights went out and all power drained from the motor. But the worrying effect was short lived and after a couple of seconds things returned to normal. Even so the driver checked under the bonnet and all was seen to be well. After depositing the patients safely the driver set off back to base and when passing no more than a few hundred yards from the first location (a couple of miles outside Ouse) a more serious failure occurred. This time a strange object was seen sitting on top of an adjacent hill. It was oval and dark yellow, with two rows of bluish lights above it. The hillslope beneath the object was illuminated. The ambulance regained both lights and power quickly and the object then disappeared (after being visible about two minutes). The lights blinked twice then the whole object seemed to be obscured by the hill and fog. Whilst an initial suspicion is that the object was the moon (in the same part of the sky and just above the horizon) - the witness sketch shows the moon as well as the UFO.



Investigation: - Keith Roberts and Ron Jolly, Tasmanian UFO Centre

Conclusion: - Unknown

DATELINE: - 6 August 1987

LOCATION: - Barcis, Pordenone, Italy

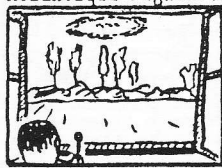
Three young men were journeying by car at 23.00 between Barcis and Cimolais. Suddenly the vehicle was surrounded by a red beam of light coming from above and the engine failed. With the car now still on the road the men jumped out and saw a lens shaped object some 25 feet in diameter hovering directly above them. The light beam was emerging out of this and the whole area was illuminated as bright as at mid-day. By now very frightened they clambered back into the car which suddenly was working again. The light had instantaneously disappeared. But this was not the end of their terrifying encounter. In a strange divergence from the normal 'time lapse' experience we seem to have here a 'distance lapse'. It was now only ten minutes after the start of the encounter and so there is no real indication of any major period of memory unaccounted for. But the men claim they were inexplicably on the road at San Daniele - which is some 25 miles away (and over 50 by way of the local road systems available). The men went to a local hospital because they were feeling unwell and were treated for nausea and conjunctivitis, apparently brought on by the brilliant light.

Investigator: - Edoardo Russo, CISU

Conclusion: - Inconclusive

DATELINE: - 7 September 1987

LOCATION: - Nort-sur-Erdre, France



The witness to this case is a little boy (Laurent) aged just 10. He was in bed at his home in this village near Nantes in the Loire-Atlantique region. The time was about 5 am and he was awake. The reason for this he heard a strange noise. He opened up the shutters that covered the window to see what might be causing the noise. A glow was obvious. So he used his tape recorder and recorded the noise - which he terms a 'bip-bip' and seems to have been akin to a morse code note keyed regularly. After a few minutes the 'music' stopped and he was able to observe the light more closely. This was moving very slowly and appeared as an orange oval shape with yellowish dots inside. It was basically above trees at the end of the garden but gradually disappeared. Despite great fear he tried to find the object over the fields but could not. He also did not wake up his parents. This case very quickly became celebrated due to the existence of this unusual evidence. A radio station took the tape and the family were eventually besieged by UFOlogists, journalists and other media people. Opinion seems very divided. The sound on the tape lasts only a few seconds, whereas the witness believed it lasted longer. It does not seem to be 'extraterrestrial' and could have a number of natural explanations connected with radio broadcasting. Another suggestion is that the noise heard in the first place was the wind. Laurent admits to having heard a similar sound the morning before. As for the light, its similarity to the sun or sun rays has been noted. Although the case achieved wide publicity and even the sceptics seem satisfied with the sincerity of the witness it does seem probable that this will be explained as a combination of different natural phenomena.

Investigation: - Renaud Marhic, AESV

Conclusion: - Possibly the wind and radio broadcasting noises

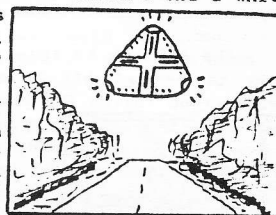
DATELINE: - 22 September 1987

LOCATION: - Abbots Bromley, England

A mother and father, their 21 year old son Dominic and his teenage friend Stephen were returning home across Cannock Chase through a fairly isolated Staffordshire road between Walsall and Uttoxeter. At this point they were near a forested area. The witnesses insist that other vehicles were nearby and saw the UFO. Indeed they even know some of the witnesses, but they are too afraid to speak about it.

It was exactly 22.18 and they had just driven around a bend and entered a little dip in the road when a bizarre object appeared to the east, shot at tremendous speed until it hovered over the road in front and then just hung there, ranging across a large expanse of sky and indicating that it was very low down indeed. One witness commented that it looked so huge just resting there that they "felt like a group of miniatures" in its presence. Another spoke of "a scene from Steven Spielberg" and they all confessed that it absolutely "mesmerised" them.

The shape displayed was triangular with rounded corners and a white strobe light inset on each apex. Inside the mass there were multiple coloured lights (at least 20 or 30 of them) - "blue, green, red and golds". They were described as vivid and 'neon tube' like. Whilst the white strobes stayed on all of the time the mass of coloured lights were in a constant state of pulsation. By now it was clear that the object WAS moving very slowly. Sailing overhead it 'dwarfed' the car and was in total silence despite its treetop height. From directly underneath it was plain that the centre of the base had a cross made up of red strip lighting. As it moved away it 'banked' to give a side on view like a very smooth aircraft or submarine shape. Dominic says that as they drove by and lost sight of it he saw a single red light (presumably part of the cross) shooting straight up into the air. The driver was in such a state of panic to get away that he almost hit an (untraced) oncoming car as he swerved onto the wrong side of the road.



Afterwards the wife said she wished she could have persuaded her husband to stop; "It was a wonderful sight to see...I felt afterwards as if my whole body had been electrified." Dominic added; "It was a marvellous, indescribable experience." Yet, despite the husband (ie the driver) saying that; "There is absolutely no way it was a plane" this theory did suggest itself to investigators.

This is only the latest in a long line of cases of almost identical UFOs - known by the name 'the silent vulcan' amongst British UFOlogists as they have the appearance of that immense triangular aircraft but very obviously are not them. Vulcan bombers are terribly noisy. Many reports now exist; almost all from Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire. As there is intense speculation that USAF Stealth aircraft are based at RAF Alconbury south of Leicester and as the revolutionary Stealth fighter looks remarkably like this UFO there are grounds for wondering. But the now undeniable extent of these highly consistent stories begin in 1978 - before Stealth seems in any way likely to have been test flown over Britain and its behaviour (swooping low on road traffic) is almost impossible to square with aviation regulations.

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*Investigation:- Clive Potter and Jenny Randles, BUFORA*

*Conclusion:- Unknown - possibly stealth aircraft*

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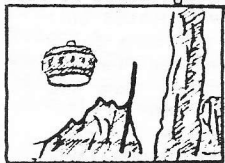
DATELINE:- 11 November 1987

LOCATION:- Gulf Breeze, Florida, USA

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This extraordinary epic is about to become a undoubted best-selling book with the very misleading title of 'UFOs: Proof Positive'. In view of that a summary in just a few lines is utterly out of the question. The affair has split American UFOlogy down the middle and already contains dozens of separate events which occurred between November 1987 and May 1988. The true puzzle is that the case is totally different from any other known event in over forty years of UFO history - except a couple which are both known to be hoaxes. Therefore, this case must also be suspect by all common sense, but if genuine then it represents a complete about face by the phenomenon and is of fundamental significance.

The first incident took place on this date at dusk (around 17.00) when a witness (usually called 'Mr Ed' - although his real name is known to most UFOlogists) went out of his home in this north Florida town to investigate a glow. He succeeded in taking four shots with his polaroid camera depicting a bluish/white shape that is disturbingly akin to a lampshade in appearance and semi-transparent in form. He then reputedly went back indoors for a new film, took one more picture before he was suddenly trapped in a blue beam and paralysed. A voice in his head then told him to stop. He would not be hurt. Then 'dog' pictures were rapidly flashed through his mind one after the other. He was 'lifted up' and when freed by the beam was dumped back on the road from about a three feet drop. His wife appeared and smelt distinctly of cinnamon and ammonia.



Five days later Mr Ed took the pictures into the local newspaper and pretended they were filmed by a friend who wished to remain anonymous. He later explained that this was to protect his own reputation (as a local builder). Yet it was some time before it emerged that the anonymous Mr Ed was in fact the even more anonymous photographer-'friend' he had alluded to.

Meanwhile, Mr Ed was having more encounters and taking lots more photos (over 20 in all). The UFOs (always the same one in very similar poses) were re-appearing regularly. On 20 November he was told to stop taking pictures by the alien voice in his head (but did anyway). He was frightened by more 'flash pictures' in his mind (this time of 'the most disgusting nude women you could imagine') and on 2 December reputedly heard alien conversations from his bed at night (in Spanish - a language he doesn't really understand - but having something to do with bananas!).

Later that night he had an 'eyeball-to-eyeball' confrontation with an alien that was four feet tall. It was wearing a shield of some sort and sporting large almond eyes. He was again struck by a ray beam but gave pursuit and whilst failing to film the aliens did film the same old UFO with a faint blue beam coming out of one side.

UFO sightings, paralysis and alien encounters continued apace and whilst the intrepid Mr Ed got many more shots (of the closely similar UFO) and one brief and rather poor video film of what some sceptics have likened to a torch beam waving about through trees he never captured the aliens for posterity.

The most bizarre event occurred on 12 January 1988 when his UFO appeared over the road ahead of his truck, shot a beam through the windscreen and partially paralysed Ed. He got to the edge of the road and managed to take one photo of the UFO apparently hovering inches above the road and illuminating the surface beneath. Then several aliens one after another were dumped out by a beam and seemed intent on getting Mr Ed. He had a shotgun and had rolled out of the cab, but instead of shooting or filming the aliens he crawled back into the truck and drove away.

The events dragged on and included a reputed visit (on 13 January 1988) by two 'agents' who showed ID cards, gave names and knew about the photos which they promptly demanded. Ed told them he had given the pictures to somebody else and the agents left meekly.

By now many local citizens had responded to the publicity claiming that they had seen similar UFOs; although none ever seemed to tie in too precisely with Mr Ed's photographs or sightings.

However, a new set of pictures showing an almost identical UFO were delivered to the same local paper. The cameraman claimed to be one 'Believer Bill' and he was sending them to endorse Ed's story. He did not come forward, despite requests, and (as some UFOlogists have pointed out) there is no obvious way way to *disprove* that Mr Ed did not take these photographs himself under a second alias. Certainly, witnesses handing over photographs without identifying themselves are extremely rare and for this to happen twice at Gulf Breeze is decidedly troublesome.

The investigation by MUFON gathered pace; although by now the case was widely touted throughout the USA. MUFON had actively endorsed it from an early date. Optical physicist, Dr Bruce Maccabee did sterling work analysing the pictures and ultimately developed a stereo camera system using two polaroids side by side. Substituting this for Ed's normal camera, trick photography with double exposures of hypothetical lampshades would be virtually impossible. The system would show the size and distance of the UFO and demonstrate the impression of the investigators and witness that it was tens of feet across and very distant. But the only pictures obtained by Ed with this new camera were utterly different from all the rest and showed a dim object that proved to be a 'small probe' just a couple of feet in diameter.

So what is the truth? The case has reached the point where that is very hard to judge. However, there are major problems with some of the data. Take the shot where the UFO reflects on the road. The shape of the patch of light seems inconsistent with the angle the UFO is facing. Then we have the disturbing fact that Mr Ed's aliens have attributes previously only recorded in the Strieber abduction (eg the cinnamon smell). As this photographic saga followed closely in the wake of the publicity for that case, surely nobody in the USA could have been unfamiliar with it. This may be seen as either suspicious or confirmatory proof of real aliens whichever way you chose to think about matters.

In my (purely subjective) opinion based on the evidence, this case has far too many pitfalls associated with it to be accepted without a great deal more work. On the other hand, it is a long and complex affair and nobody has yet successfully demonstrated it to be the product of trickery. To most UFOlogists the case remains open; although I fear it has been highly over-rated. Someone will be wrong and 'egg on the face' will be the order of the day for believers or sceptics at some future date.

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Investigators: - Walt Andrus, Charles Flannigan, Donald Ware - MUFON  
 Conclusion: - Inconclusive

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DATELINE: - 1 December 1987

LOCATION: - Ilkley Moor, England

There are so many disturbing parallels between this case and Gulf Breeze (happening at precisely the same time on the other side of the Atlantic) that one is tempted to think that they cannot be unconnected.

But if they are related, in what way? *Has* the phenomenon changed in character as those proponents of Mr Ed's pictures believe? Is it deliberately setting itself up to be photographed and offer hard evidence of an extraordinary (if still inconclusive) nature at last? Or are things more sinister? Have some factions decided to test or abuse UFO research in the wake of the excesses of 1987? Did they set up concurrent exercises on American and British UFOlogy with these cases?

The case involved a young man of high social repute (an ex police officer - and who like Mr Ed required total anonymity for job related reasons) was walking across the moors somewhat inexplicably at 07.30 on a winters day. His plan was to visit a nearby village and take some pictures of dawn over Ilkley from the moortops. However, he saw a strange greenish figure about four feet tall instead and was able to take one photograph of that before it disappeared round an outcrop. The witness chased it and was just in time to see (but not film) a typical disc-like UFO climbing into the sky. He did not notice that it was daylight as he did all this, whereas according to the time it *should* have been pitch dark. Even so he abandoned his plans, went to the nearest main town by bus and had the photograph instantly developed. On route he noted from a clock that over one and a half hours had seemingly vanished. Also he found that his compass was now magnetised and pointed south instead of north.

The witness wrote to me two days later giving this story and offering his real name but a box number on the other side of the country as contact. I tried to trace him in the Ilkley area but he had moved and gone ex-directory that very week. About a month later - with my reply to his box number still unanswered - a colleague in the local Manchester group MUFORA - Peter Hough - was approached by two local UFO enthusiasts not noted for in-depth investigations. They too had been approached direct by the witness, given the photograph and told to do what they would with it. Peter persuaded them to let him conduct a full enquiry.

The photo (on 400 ASA film and very grainy) was unlike others on the roll (which were clearer and depicted bridges and buildings). It was analysed by three separate experts (including KODAK) and generally pronounced genuine; although nobody could say whether the figure (which site measurements and photo reconstructions proved to be about four and a half feet tall) was a child 'suited up' or a bona fide alien. Tests on the area found no radiation or magnetisation and extensive laboratory experiments at a university showed that the reversal of polarity on the compass was not very difficult to duplicate given a bit of know-how.

But the witness (who was very intelligent, persuasive and credible) claimed other strange events; including pictures in his mind and a visit on 15 January 1988 by two strange men who gave names, had ID, knew all about his photographs, wanted them and left meekly when he said he did not have them. This was just two days after the virtually identical visit claimed by Mr Ed in Florida; although the Ed case was totally unknown even in British UFO circles at that time. Of course, if a coordinated plan were afoot linking these two cases for some ulterior purpose by some clever source the coincidence of this *alleged* (but unproven) follow-up visit in both cases would be more apparent.

The Ilkley man was also regressed (which Mr Ed does not seem to have been - yet!). A typical 'on board' memory emerged involving the usual trappings of examination and passing of bland information to the witness. This also supposedly occurred BEFORE the picture of the alien was taken. Thus the hypnosis unravelled an apparent explanation for this inconsistency in the story; although not why the witness's conscious memory before hypnosis never included this sudden jump between pitch darkness and daylight around the time the photograph was taken.

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Investigation: Peter Hough - MUFORA

Conclusion: - Inconclusive/Ongoing

DATELINE: - 14 December 1987

LOCATION: - Launceston, Tas, Australia

Before 21.30 a car dealer driving a Mercedes 20 miles south of Launceston on Tasmania noticed some lights. Soon afterwards an object appeared and landed on the road ahead. As it did so his car lights went out and his engine failed. The driver put on the brake and screeched to a halt.

The object was like an egg or oval - 15 feet in diameter and grey in colour. The underside had bright lights on it. Indeed these were so intense they hurt his eyes to look at them. The man ran and hid behind a tree and vomited. He was still sick the following morning. From this vantage point he saw the stalled car 'dragged' along the road some 30 feet towards the UFO, leaving rubber tread and scuff marks on the surface.

Some minutes later a Landcruiser truck approached. This was diesel engined and that continued to operate (although its lights went out). The car dealer went to the truck to share his story with the driver. Meanwhile the UFO shot off in an arc making a 'whirring' noise. There was some bitumen on his car, which seemed to have come from the road surface where it had melted. The car subsequently suffered electrical problems, which were soon repaired and investigators failed to locate the precise spot on the highway. This was largely because several similar areas existed where bitumen had been repaired by the council.

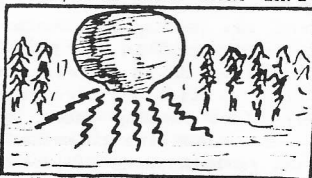
Investigation: - Keith Roberts, Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre

Conclusion: - Unknown

DATELINE: - 31 December 1987

LOCATION: - Sater, Dalecarlia, Sweden

Between 01.00 and 03.00 the cat and dog of a family at this town were very restless and kept wanting to go out, then come back in. It appeared they were afraid of something. Mrs B (a 59 year old retired nurse) got dressed to see what was up and through the window saw the dog frozen to the spot, its jaw shaking. A strange ice blue globe of light around 20 ft in diameter appeared above treetops directly in front of her as she opened the front door to look after the animal. It was hovering but was surrounded by a curious greyish/orange mist. From the underside 'lightning flashes' shot out every so often, apparently reaching down to the ground. Paralysed with fear Mrs B tried to call to her husband but her jaw locked. Her skin was crawling and her forehead was aching. She was of the opinion her mind was being 'absorbed' and she was dying.



Meanwhile inside Mr B was dressing and heard only a faint humming sound. He never got to the door in time to see anything. The events ended after five minutes (around 03.30) when the UFO suddenly vanished and at the same instant Mrs B felt a sharp 'pin prick' in her back. Rejoined by her husband he noticed her shock and that both she and the animals smelt of sulphur.



At 04.00 Mr B went out with the dog. He saw nothing but the air smelt strange ("like creosote"). Mrs B had a terrible headache the next day and this persisted for five days in all. A streaky burn was also discovered on the back of the jumper she had worn that night. It was only 2 inches long and the threads had all melted together. The National Defence Institute analysed the jumper and concluded that a powerful jolt of static electricity was to blame.

Many people saw a blue light in this area that night. The area, interestingly, is recorded as being of great geological interest with old iron and other ore mining.

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Investigation:- Birgit Salgstron

Conclusion:- Unknown atmospheric phenomenon

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DATELINE:- 20 January 1988

LOCATION:- Mundrabilla, Western Australia

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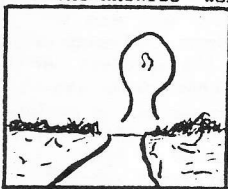
This now famous affair was, in fact, widely misrepresented by the world's press who devoted more space to it than almost any other in history. The true facts - whilst still intriguing - are a little less sensational than at first seemed apparent.

The events occurred on the main road between Perth and Adelaide, across the border into South Australia. The huge distance between these two cities is ranged to the north by desert outback and the south by the ocean. Only little settlements dot this road scattered wide apart.

Four vehicles were involved (spread over a 10 mile area). Three were headed east towards Adelaide and one west in the direction of Perth. The latter (a car and caravan with which the main witnesses nearly collided when they swerved across the road) has not been traced. It was dark - pre dawn - on this summers day at around 04.00.

The leading vehicle heading east was a truck. Some miles behind him was a Ford sedan car containing the Knowles family making the huge several day trek from Perth to pay a surprise visit to relatives in Melbourne. At an unknown distance (but some miles) behind them was a second truck. The two trucks were in limited radio contact with each other and the drivers knew one another.

The Knowles' were mother, Faye, and her three sons aged between 18 and



24 (one of whom was driving). They first saw a light in the east 'jumping about' and approaching them. It grew brighter. There was some talk of 'spaceships' and then it vanished. It was next seen behind them to the west. They accelerated, but it now was suddenly ahead of them once more. During complex cat-and-mouse games with the light they did a 'U' turn and travelled in the wrong direction for some time before continuing

on their easterly course. At that stage the situation grew tense. The object was assumed to be overhead (although not seen). They heard a humming, felt as if they were being shaken and lifted off the road (although this was never visually confirmed in the extreme panic), there was an awful smell and a greyish mist or dust came in through the open window. Mrs Knowles had her hand on the rooftop of the car and felt something 'up there'. A tyre burst and they screeched to a halt.

Stopping in the bush they hid as the object hovered about for a bit, then left. They hastily changed the burst tyre and drove on into a motel at Mundrabilla (around 25 miles further down the road). Here they met one of the truck drivers and found four shallow 'dents' in the roof of the car (one at each corner). Also the car was covered in a fine grey ash like silica or sand and smelt like bakelite.

They drove on across the border into daybreak and stopped at a police station in Ceduna - a couple of towns on and some hours later. It was here that they reported the incident and made a full statement. The South Australia police called Ray Brooke at 14.30, as the Knowles family were still present at the station. Arrangements were made for them to meet UFO Research Australia investigators upon arrival in Adelaide some hours later. Unfortunately, the press heard of the tale and intercepted the Knowles car before they reached the city - concluding a TV deal and whisking them to the studios. The car was collected by truck for investigation. Ray Brooke and co did, however, get chance to interview the family the next day at the studios and inspected the car a week later at a research centre some days later. It had already been vacuumed by UFO enthusiast Paul Norman of the Victorian UFO Society. However, the only ash the UFORA team could find came from the wheel arches and turned out to be worn brake lining.

The TV company had arranged for an independent assessment of the car by AMDEL (Australian Mineral Development Laboratory). They analysed dust with x-ray diffraction and radiation techniques and compared this with dust from other vehicles. They too concluded (quite separately) that it came from "wearing brake pads and discs". Other analyses were carried out by the police forensic squad (which also found nothing odd) and the one by the Victoria Group. They were later quoted in the press as having discovered high levels of elements that are used in shuttle re-entries and implying the strangeness of the samples. Dr Richard Haines, who analysed the dust in the USA, says that without control samples from local Australian terrain it is not possible to tell if the findings were unusual or what might be expected.

One of the two truck drivers saw a light similar to that reported by the Knowles family (variously termed as akin to an 'egg in a cup'). There were other reports from cars on the road who saw lights and another buffeted by unexpected strong winds. This ties in with some suggestions that the phenomenon was an unusual electric storm.

The case remains perplexing to a degree, but it is clear that many of the stranger aspects recorded by the press are the product of exaggeration and wishful thinking. All in all this case just about deserves the status of a close encounter.

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*Investigation: - Keith Basterfield, Ray Brooke, Bill Chalker et al UFORA*  
*Conclusion: - Unknown, but probably unusual natural phenomenon*

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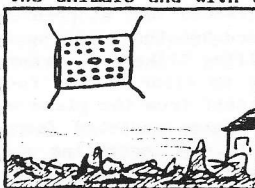
DATELINE: - 2 March 1988

LOCATION: - Godmanchester, England

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This was another case which featured in the media. In this instance that fact was significant not so much because of distortion of the truth but because of the serious consequences it had for the witness - a 14 year old girl.

The time was 19.35 in this small town on the edge of East Anglia. The girl was in the garden of her house, mucking out the animals and with a transistor radio by her side for company. But then a faint, vibrating roar was heard even above music and crackling. Inside the house her parents both heard this noise but did not immediately react to it. RAF Alconbury (the home of Stealth aircraft as mentioned on p.38) is only three miles from them and was automatically assumed to be responsible. A terrible odour "like vile rotten eggs" then hit the area as the noise grew painfully loud. The radio blanked out and as the girl stared into the sky she saw a bizarre object approaching from the east. It was jet black, square in shape, seemed to have little holes or perforations all over the side and an 'aerial' sticking out of each corner. The whole thing looked thin and was only a few feet in diameter. As it raced over towards the north west the noise and grinding vibration was terrible, but the instant it passed the radio came back to life and the smell abated.



The girl fled back indoors and it took some minutes for her parents to calm her down. She was in turmoil. There was never any doubt in their mind that something had occurred and they rushed out to find their pet horse trembling beside the wall in clear distress. Describing the sound they heard they claim it grew to a crescendo over a few seconds and the whole house literally shook. For a moment it felt as if all the air had been sucked out and they were left in a vacuum. They also detected the smell from indoors. All air traffic was checked but nobody admitted to having any knowledge of what this thing might be. The girl was so effected she suffered panic hysteria, blurred vision and enlarged pupils, refused to go out at night, insisted on sleeping in the same bed as her mother and was under the care of a doctor for many days. The family unwisely talked to the press hoping that somebody would find an explanation. But the story was given short shrift by 'The Sun' who carried only a small piece with limited details, concentrating instead on the claim that a "Tea bag UFO" had "Zapped" her.

As long as three months after this sighting I was in consultation with her educational welfare officer (put in touch by the investigator). The ridicule that followed the press story had exacerbated a long standing problem and the girl was still refusing to return to school in such a way that it was effecting her work. We tried to defuse the situation by inventing a 'safe' solution (eg a bin bag floating on the wind from a local tip). But recovery was a very slow business and it is obvious that this girl did have a terrifying close encounter.

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Investigation:- Ron West and Ernie Still, BUFORA

Conclusion:- Unknown

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DATELINE:- 1 April 1988

LOCATION:- Chipinge, Zimbabwe, Africa

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This is an extraordinary case of a potential abduction. The witness is a 21 year old woman with a religious outlook on life and no prior interest in, or knowledge concerning, the UFO phenomenon. She was in bed at the time, at some unknown point after midnight.

The girl 'felt strange'. She was awake but all night sounds (eg crickets) had stopped. Even the loud bedside clock could no longer be heard. But then - in an instant - a beam of white light shot through the ceiling "like a fluorescent tube when it first comes on". It went all the way to floor at the foot of the bed, but the woman's efforts to shield herself from the glare were prevented because she was utterly paralysed.

Beams radiated (more sideways than vertically) from this suspended shaft, now resembling a 'ball' floating in mid air. Yet the roof above where it penetrated was transparent and she could see a UFO above with the beam emerging from it. This thing was tilted at an angle, mustard in colour and had windows. The sky around it was illuminated brightly by a very unusual glow that turned it mid-blue. Then the girl found herself feeling as if she were "cut off" from everyone and was "floating" up into the UFO. Suddenly, there was a jump and the ceiling was closed again - she was back on the bed feeling utterly drained of energy. A whirring or whizzing sound came from outside and after she recovered enough energy to stumble out of bed she saw the time (03.35 - which might possibly suggest a sizeable time lapse) and that through the window the sky really was illuminated with the same blue light she recalled. The peculiar silence still permeated the area.

She decided to get her mother out of bed, but on route the house lights went out and she was plunged into blackness. Then they came back on but the whirring noise and the sky glow vanished with this sudden reappearance. She woke her mother and sisters and they did not go back to bed, sitting up and discussing what had happened. They reported that in the dark for a short time the young girl's eyes were "large and sort of glowing". No hypnosis has been carried out to date.

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Investigation: - Cynthia Hind

Conclusion: - Unknown

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DATELINE: - 4 August 1988

LOCATION: - Little Hayward, England

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This impressive case again took place in the Cannock Chase area of Staffordshire, not very far from the location of the Abbots Bromley report (near the site of which, incidentally, a peculiar crop circle mark appeared in the summer of 1989).

An unrelated middle-aged couple were returning from a single parents night out in Cannock. It was 00.05 and they were at a crossing by Wheatman's Bridge on a quiet lane when the woman stopped talking and pointed out the object. It was over hedges to their side, seemingly touching them, and comprised a gaseous cloud which was 'contained' and pulsed with a red glow inside. The shock may have contributed to the witnesses statements about a 'strange feeling' that descended over them and the 'unusual quiet' of the area. After hovering for a few seconds the thing climbed upwards and vanished, before reappearing some seconds later over a river area. The next day one witness inspected the scene and found that the bush where the object had hovered was stripped bare in places and crushed. This led to an extensive enquiry - although, to their shame, local Universities refused to offer any help or support in this serious endeavour and this substantially delayed proper investigation. When will they start sitting up and taking notice of real, hard evidence like this?

Site analysis showed the branches to be dead, but not burnt. The damage had a mechanical rather than radiological cause. Samples were taken on by plant biologist Dr Michele Clare in Sheffield and through BUFORAs liaison with TORRO (Tornado and Storm Research Organisation), David Reynolds made a site inspection. The air was saturated with moisture and this could explain the red colour of the glow. Eventually evidence was garnered which indicated this was almost certainly a physical phenomenon associated with an unusual atmospheric vortex.

Investigation:- Clive Potter, Susan Dean, Kevin Flanery BUFORA, IUN, SKYSCAN  
 Conclusion:- Unknown atmospheric phenomenon

DATELINE:- 4 December 1988

LOCATION:- Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

A police officer driving to work at 05.25 met an object atop power lines. Such was the illumination emitted he was made to swerve across lanes, ending up side on and in the path of oncoming vehicles. Luckily no traffic was in evidence at that hour. The thing was bright silver in colour and about 75 feet long. It was only around 125 feet from him. He likened the glow to burning magnesium and the thing remained stationary. It was a clear morning with winds of up to 40 mph making it difficult getting out of his vehicle. After some moments the UFO began to move from side to side, then up and down before accelerating straight up and stopping again. Then it travelled away to the south west leaving a silvery trail in its wake. In motion a distinct humming noise was emitted.

The policeman reported that inside his car was a 'bluish mist' during the encounter and the paint on the outside took an unusual dullness in the reflected glow. Dust particles were left on its side. Analysis showed the one anomaly was Potassium Chloride - also present in the Victorian UFO group analysis of the Mundrabilla car!

The witness also felt a radiating warmth, a tingling/electric shock sensation and subsequently developed a headache, dizziness and sluggish behaviour. Even with his hands over his eyes in protection the UFO glare was painful. Afterwards his face and ears were red and 'burned', his neck and spinal muscles felt sore and he suffered blurred vision for hours. The first investigator (same day) saw these marks showing clear shadow from his 'peaked cap' which had been pulled down in protection.

On leaving the area the officer found a man parked in a car a few yards down the road. He had not noticed him before. He was shaken, his eyes were moist and he looked dazed. The officer confirmed the man was okay and that he had seen the object also - but the policeman was so unnerved himself that he took down no details. This car reputedly smelt of sulphur and the engine was cold as if the man had been there ages. MUFON wonder if this was a unique 'witnessed' abduction coming to its end!

Investigation:- Stan Gordon and Leslie Varnicle, PASU & MUFON  
 Conclusion:- Unknown

NB: These cases represent some of the best evidence, 95% of all UFOs are explained.

## PUBLICATIONS

## BOOKS IN 1987 &amp; 1988:

## AMERICAN:-

*Communion: A true story* Whitley Strieber 300pp Pub: William Morrow \$17.95 Hard  
The author is a noted horror fiction writer, but here describes his real-life abduction memory in New York state. The book that changed UFOlogy. Biggest UFO best-seller in history and published in hardback and 1988 paperback editions worldwide. Somewhat confused in parts

*Intruders* Budd Hopkins 238pp Pub: Random House \$17.95 Hard  
Another abduction; this time the story of a family and how the psychiatrists and UFOlogists coped. More analytical with better hard data but a fantastic premise regarding motives of the aliens, UK (Sphere) and several global paperback editions in 1988.

*Light Years* Gary Kinder 266pp Pub: Atlantic Monthly \$18.95 Hard  
Attempt by journalist to probe Swiss contactee with ultra-dubious photographs. Dismissed by all serious UFOlogists for years as near certain hoax. Inexplicably promoted worldwide (and big sales in Britain!) as 'science' and 'the best documented case ever'. Largely junk.

*MUFON 1987 Conference* Ed Walt Andrus 222pp See MUFON address page 52 Soft  
Annual compilation of lectures, this time of the biggest ever conference. Papers from leading UFOlogists all over world - 'state of art' June '87, \$16.50 and indispensable.

*Night Siege* Allen Hynek/Phil Imbrogno/Bob Pratt Pub: Ballantine \$6.95 Soft  
Hynek's last (posthumous) work completed by others is sad tribute. Wave of New England cases of 'V' formation lights. Probably aircraft; although authors try to make more of it.

*A Dangerous Game* Philip Klass 200pp Pub: Prometheus Books \$18.95 Hard  
Hilary Evans nearly joined Ayotollah's hit list by endorsing 'every word' of this in review. The noted debunker rubbishes abductions with some cogent criticism and a good deal of sweeping generalisation too. Worthwhile if read alongside a good 'pro-abduction' book.

*Dimensions* Dr Jacques Vallee 304pp Pub: Contemporary Books £12.95 Hard  
Vallee's first book in many years is disappointing reprint of old stuff with a few new comments on the abduction wave. He promises a truly new book for 1990 and if you haven't read his seminal works from the sixties and seventies this is invaluable. UK (Souvenir)

*Uninvited Guests* Richard Hall 380pp Pub: Aurora, New Mexico \$14.00 Soft  
An old guard UFOlogist puts together a creditable array of case histories that are well marshalled and offer a nice perspective on what UFOlogy is really all about (UK imported)

*MUFON 1988 Conference* Ed Walt Andrus 241pp As above (see 1987 edition)  
More of the same, reflecting the incidents and mood of mid 1988. Shows why American UFOlogy has switched wholeheartedly to the ETH. Maccabee's epic work on Gulf Breeze is here too.

## BRITISH:-

*Modern Mysteries of Britain* Janet & Colin Bord 336pp Pub: Grafton Books £14.95 Hard  
British folklore experts collect anecdotes from all over country during past century. Plenty of UFO tales, but rather superficial. Interesting date and county by county lists

*Sixth Sense* Jenny Randles 240pp Pub: Robert Hale £9.95 Hard  
Detailed look at human senses and altered states of consciousness as relevant to psychic and close encounter UFO cases, Proposes 'OZ Factor' theory, US edition (Salem House)

*The UFO Conspiracy* Jenny Randles 224pp Pub: Blandford £10.95 Hard  
Sections look at UFO history year by year 1947-1987 and then a global review of major cases continent by continent, Emphasis on governmental interest, Softback and US in 1988

*UFOs: 1947-1987* Ed Hilary Evans & John Spencer 384pp See Fortean Times p. 52  
Large format softback in conjunction between BUFORA and Fortean Times, Contributed papers by over 30 leading UFOlogists to give an incisive and deep world overview 40 years on.

*Above Top Secret* Timothy Good 590pp Pub: Sidgwick & Jackson £14.95 Hard  
Enormous collection of reprinted documents and commentary on the UFO cover-up by world governments, Very extraterrestrial orientated, Introduction by ex chief of MoD, Lord Hill-Norton but best-selling UK title of eighties, US edition (Morrow) and 1989 UK softback.

*Fatima* David Barclay 198pp Pub: Mark Saunders £2.95 Paper  
A DIY publication (from Austin Close Irchester Northants) with awful cover and photos, Subtitled 'A close encounter of the worst kind' proposes bizarre UFO thesis to explain 1917 'miracle of Fatima' in Portugal, Not bad in parts but some factual errors.

*Phantom Aerial Flaps* Nigel Watson 24pp See MAGONIA address on p. 52 Booklet  
A potted summary of all known waves of sightings of 'pre UFOs' (mystery airships, aircraft and foo fighters) from 1830 to 1947, Very useful at just £1.15 (post inc).

*Abduction* Jenny Randles 240pp Pub: Robert Hale £10.95 Hard  
Global review of the abduction experience looking at similarities and differences across varying cultures, 200 case data base of summaries, 1989 paper and US (Inner Light) edition

*Phenomenon* Ed Evans & Spencer 414pp Pub: Futura £3.95 Paper  
Similar to the BUFORA venture by same editors the year before, this 1988 effort is slightly more aimed away from serious UFOlogists towards general public, All new material- even from other book, Same idea (individual newly written chapters by leading UFOlogists) on entire range of the UFO phenomenon, Highly praised concept with US paperback edition from Avon.

*Death by supernatural causes?* Jenny Randles & Peter Hough Pub: Grafton £2.99 Paper  
A series of detailed studies of modern cases where individual died in mysterious circumstances and so the paranormal got the blame, Several are directly UFO related, Attempts to set the matter in sociological context with critiques of UFOlogy, the media and anyone who deserved it! 1989 Dutch language edition from Bzztoh.

*Gods-Spirits-Cosmic Guardians* Hilary Evans 288pp Pub: Aquarian £7.99 Soft  
Sequel (and in some senses a rewrite with all new material) of Evans' important book *Visions-Apparitions-Alien Visitors*, Looks at contact with other intelligences and develops a partly psychic, mostly psychological explanation, UFO abduction and contact have sections.

*The Eye of Fire* Graham Phillips & Martin Keatman Pub: Grafton £2.99 Paper  
The authors of the bizarre 'Green Stone' book develop their supposedly true tale of battles against evil powers and psychic treasure hunts across British countryside, Strange lights crop up and many of the team were part of the British UFO scene (including one well known mainstream contact/abductee), It's a case of make your own mind up, but a good yarn.

Apologies to books inadvertently omitted, Send review copies if you want a plug in 1990!



# MAJOR MAGAZINE ARTICLES

## Sightings:-

- IUR "The JAL Case" (Bruce Maccabee)  
*Mar 87 Issue devoted to this late 1986 radar-visual over Alaska on Japan Airlines*
- MUFON J "Kenneth Arnold Revisited" (Greg Long)  
*Jun 87 The UFO witness who started it all reinterviewed not long before he died*
- MUFON J "Helicopters, UFOs & The psyche" (Dennis Stillings)  
*Jul 87 A review of cases where unexplained helicopters have figured prominently*
- IUR "Burned by a UFO?" (Chris Rutkowski)  
*Nov 87 A reinvestigation of Canadian landing with physiological effects*
- BRIGANTIA "Clicknology" (Philip Mantle & IUR)  
*Jan 88 Detailed report on the uncovering of the much promoted 1987 Barnsley photo hoax*
- FATE "UFO Crashes" (Jerome Clark)  
*Jan 88 (And next three issues) History of reputed UFO crashes from 1896 onwards*
- NUN "The perfect abduction?" (Jenny Randles/Peter Hough)  
*May 88 (And next five issues) Full review of Ilkley Moor abduction/alien photo*
- UNIVERSE "John Lennons close encounter" (Harold Salkin)  
*Jul 88 Lengthy account of Lennon's New York encounter given by his co-witness*
- "Shirley MacClaine and UFOs" (Antonio Huneeus)  
*Sep 88 The mystic oscar winning actress recounts her adventures in UFOland*
- "Gordon Cooper's close encounter" (Timothy Green Beckley)  
*Nov 88 The US astronaut discusses his sighting and views on UFOlogy*
- BRIGANTIA "Mystery of the Silpho Saucer" (Jenny Randles)  
*Nov 88 A crashed UFO case in Yorkshire thirty years ago unravelled and unmasked*

## Personalities:-

- IUR "On the road with visitors" (Whitley Strieber)  
*Jan 87 The abductee/author relates his treatment at the hands of the US media*
- MUFON "Light Years" (Gary Kinder)  
*Apr 87 The writer justifies why he resisted all pressure from UFOlogy and wrote it*
- BUFORA "Talking Communion" (Mike Vootten/Whitley Strieber)  
*Jul 87 Revealing interview with UFOlogist Vootten whilst author was in Britain*
- IUR "Conversation with Budd Hopkins" (Jerome Clark/Budd Hopkins)  
*Nov 88 Hopkins reveals the whys and wherefores of his latest views on abduction cases*

Research:-

- MUFON "UFO radio interference" (James McCampbell)  
*Mar 87 Tests to discover magnetic field strength involved in car-stop cases*
- IUR "Abductions in life and lore" (Eddie Bullard)  
*Jun 87 Folklorist reviews his mammoth research survey into hundreds of cases*
- MUFON "The vehicle interference effect" (Joe Kirk Thomas)  
*Sep 87 Laboratory experiments trying to find physics behind electromagnetic radiation*
- MAGONIA "Transvection and UFOlogy" (Manfred Cassirer)  
*Jan 88 Comparisons between folklore/witchcraft 'flying' and OOBs with abductions*
- MUFON "Abduction special" (Bullard/Hopkins/Jacobs/Moravec/Randles)  
*Feb 88 Series of articles reviewing abduction state in Australia, Britain and USA*
- IUR "Abduction states of consciousness" (Robert Bartholomew & Keith Basterfield)  
*Mar 88 Abductees in altered state of consciousness having psychological experience?*
- MUFON "Great balls of fire" (Paul Davies)  
*Apr 88 Physicist updates latest research knowledge on ball lightning*
- IUR "Mystery circles; Myth in the making" (Paul Fuller)  
*May 88 The sociological and physical results of probe into English crop circles*
- "The fantasy prone personality hypothesis" (Bartholomew & Basterfield)  
*Research into fpp's reveals surprising clues about psychology of abductees*
- BUFORA "Mirages explain UFO reports" (Steuart Campbell)  
*May 88 Work trying to show that UFO cases can be explained as optical mirages of stars*
- "Foo Fighters; The story so far" (Andy Roberts)  
*Jul 88 Historical research revealing genesis of World War Two 'Foo Fighter' UFOs*
- MUFON "Extraordinary encounter continuum hypothesis" (Peter Rojewicz)  
*Jul 88 Attempt to link abductions with out of body and near death experiences*
- "Neuropsychological aspects of the visitor experience" (Michael Persinger)  
*Nov 88 Research into why abductions could be physically triggered hallucinations*

The Cover Up:-

- IUR "The cover-up in England - (disinformation)" (Jenny Randles)  
*Sep 87 Full story of how JR and Peter Hough were offered secret MJ-12 style papers*
- "MJ-12 : The evidence so far" (Stanton Friedman)  
*Cogent detailed review of everything known on these puzzling documents*
- MAGONIA "Majestical mystery tour" (Ralph Noyes)  
*Apr 88 Former MoD under-secretary, now UFOlogist, gives inside view of MJ-12 affair*


*For details of where to obtain these magazines see listings on p.52*

## ADDRESSES

<i>Africa:</i>	UFO Afrinews	PO Box MP 49	Mount Pleasant	Harare	Zimbabwe
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<i>U, K:</i>	UFO Brigantia	84 Elland Rd	Brighouse	West Yorks	HD6 2QR
	Fortean Times	96 Mansfield Road		London	NW3 2HX
	LUFOIC	31 Grove Road	Highfields	Leicester	LE5 3HJ
	Magonia	5 James Terrace		London	SW14 8HB
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	Fate	170 Future Way		Marion	OH 43305
	Focus	4219 West Olive	Suite 247	Burbank	CA 91505
	MUFON	103 Oldtowne Rd		Seguin	TX 78155
	PASU	6 Oakhill Avenue		Greensburg	PA 15601
	UFO Universe	351 West 54th Street		New York	NY 10019

*BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) was formed in 1962 and has no fixed opinions on the UFO subject. The comments in this publication stem from the author (Jenny Randles) - who is BUFORA 'Director of Investigations' and reflect the material supplied by the various credited UFOlogists, whose views are, of course, their own. BUFORA exists to investigate and research reports of unidentified atmospheric phenomena over the British Isles and offers its data base and resources to scientific institutes and media sources. Membership may be applied for by any serious-minded individual and details can be obtained by sending return first class postage and requesting an 'Information Pack' from:- BUFORA c/o 37 Heathbank Rd Cheadle Heath Stockport Cheshire SK3 0UP*

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